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space for new
designers
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Music stolen
from heaven

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Venues for a
spooky dinner

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Next Elite model



The 25th Elite Model Final will be held in tropical Sanya, Hainan Province, Saturday. The 80 contestants from 70 countries will gather for the third Elite Model Look World Final to be held in China.
CFP photo

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Yunnan female
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the killer of 798?

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Artist fights to
save a sick friend



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Women's HIV rate rises 5 times in 10 years in Yunnan

By He Jianwei

The proportion of women in Yunnan Province infected with HIV/AIDS increased from 7.1 percent in 1998 to 35 percent this year and 90 percent of those infected are of child-bearing age.

These disturbing figures were released at the Tsinghua AIDS Conference on October 19.

The figures came from an analysis of 3.2 million HIV/AIDS blood samples collected in Yunnan by the Comprehensive AIDS Research Center at Tsinghua University and the Yunnan Province Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rise of sexually transmitted HIV

The survey shows that the percentage of people who contracted HIV/AIDS via heterosexual behavior increased to 37.5 percent. HIV/AIDS is spreading

out from the high-risk population to ordinary people. "HIV/AIDS used to spread mostly among the 'high-risk' population – drug abusers and illegal blood sellers – but now it is spreading primarily through sexual behavior," Lu Lin, director of Yunnan Province Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said.

The survey found 38 of the 106 newborns checked were infected at birth. About 9 to 16 percent of the newborns who do not have congenital HIV/AIDS will acquire the disease from their mother later. "Mothers increase their chances of passing the virus on to their babies if they are infected during the pregnancy," Gui Xi'en, a professor from Wuhan University, said.

Social factors behind risk

Social, cultural and economic

factors make women more vulnerable to HIV infection. Social changes over the last 30 years have changed the risk environment for a majority Chinese people, especially for Chinese women.

In China, the greatest risk for a sexually active woman under the age of 45 is to be married or in a long-term relationship with a man. The high-risk sexual behavior of an unfaithful spouse places her more at risk than does her own behavior, Lu said.

Migrant workers are one of the most vulnerable groups to HIV infection. In China, migrants are mainly young, uneducated and sexually active. "Migrant workers have little access to HIV prevention information and basic health care," he said.

Limited education also heightens the risks for women. For fam-

ilies with more than one child in the rural areas, the parents' preference for boys means that a daughter's education is more likely to be cut short than that of a male sibling.

"One survey found that 87 percent of females drop out of school before age 15, compared with 40 percent of males. In 2002, the illiteracy among women was 22.9 percent, a stark contrast to 7.9 percent for men," he said.

"Women on the whole know less about the HIV/AIDS than men. Fewer than 40 percent of women in the countryside knew how to prevent AIDS," he said.

Efforts targeting women and babies

David Ho, director of the AIDS Research Center, implemented a project to prevent

mother-to-child transmissions of HIV in Yunnan Province. The project provides drug intervention to 250 HIV/AIDS infected mothers, effectively reducing the mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The transmission rate is reduced from 33 percent before drug intervention to 1 to 2 percent after intervention.

Ho said his Center will start another clinical project to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The project was first initiated by his center, in collaboration with experts from many fields and the Health Department of Yunnan Province. It will provide training to local doctors and clinical directors, fund local hospitals and patients and support governmental efforts to stamp out mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

Fire-fighting tanks appear in Beijing

A firefighting tank valued at over 3 million yuan appearing at the Beijing International Firefighting Equipments and Techniques Exhibition on October 28. The firefighting tank, which is a refitted Chinese military tank, will be used in future firefighting tasks.

CFP Photo



Cuisine aims for intangible cultural heritage

By Jin Zhu

The China Cuisine Association (CCA) received a formal letter from the Ministry of Culture inviting it to lead the charge in China's bid to make its cuisine an intangible cultural heritage.

A spokesman for the CCA said China is prepared to have its cuisine added to both the national and UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) lists of cultural heritage. "Early preparations are complicated and will take a year and a half – maybe two years," Zhao Jie, director of the CCA News Department, said.

Chinese cuisine is recognized one of the world's three dominant culinary traditions together with French and Turkish cuisine. However, the current state of Chinese cooking still remains a tradition passed down through verbal instruction. Some cooking traditions have been lost.

"China's bid is not to exhibit its culinary culture in a museum or in the encyclopedia, but to sort out its own traditional culture and help protect the existing traditions," Qiao Delin, deputy secretary-general in CCA, said.

"We learned a lesson from

Korea's bid for the Dragon Boat Festival earlier this year. This time, we are bidding first to prevent other countries from stealing China's culinary traditions," he added.

UNESCO started its list of intangible cultural heritage, including dance, carnivals and other rituals, in 2003. However, there is no category at UNESCO for foods thus far.

"Only elements specifically identified in the convention can make the list of intangible heritage, and food is not among them," Cherif Khaznadar, president of the UNESCO assembly of states, said when France planned to present a bid to include its culinary traditions earlier this year.

"Since the French bid will be presented to UNESCO next year and a verdict will be due in 2010, we will follow its progress closely," Qiao said.

Many details about China's bid remain under intense discussion. "Whether it is suitable to select specific cuisines or culinary traditions for separate bids, such as a bid for Beijing Roast Duck, or to just submit Chinese cuisine as a whole, are things we have yet to decide," he said.

Growth slows, but not country's share of world GDP

By Han Manman

The nation's share of the world's total gross output (GDP) rose to 6 percent at the end of 2007. When the reform and open policy began in 1978, it was only 1.8 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on Monday.

China has since become a lower middle income country, according to the definition provided by the World Bank. Per capita income ranges from between US \$936 and \$3,705. In 1978, the per capita income was

US \$190, according to data from the bureau.

Fast economic growth over the last 30 years had lifted China's GDP position from 10th in 1978 to 4th, just behind the US, Japan and Germany.

Currently, the GDP is equal to a quarter of the US GDP, three-quarters of Japan's GDP and 99.5 percent of Germany's, according to the report.

"For the past two years, the world has focused on whether China can overtake Germany to

become the third biggest economy. China may achieve the goal this year," said Song Hong, director of the Department of International Trade at the Institute of World Economics and Politics Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"However, the final rank will be affected by the rate of exchange. If the Euro exchange rate changes within 10 percent by the end of this year, China may overtake Germany," Song said.

As for producing 6 percent of the world's GDP, Song said the

number will likely go up since China is expected to suffer less than the US and Europe in the current financial crisis.

The bureau reported that China has also become the world's third largest trading nation after the US and Germany, accounting for 7.7 percent of the world total in trade last year, up from 0.8 percent in 1978.

Song said the world financial crisis will put pressure on Chinese exports, and now may be the time for Chinese business to

turn their attention back to the domestic market. The move may stimulate enterprises to produce more competitive products and weed out the less efficient ones.

However, the report also showed that China faces a number of major economic and social problems. Its market system is far from perfect, and its growth pattern and structural problems need change.

Rural areas and agriculture remain a perennial problem for the country's coordinated development.

Crackdown on male prostitutes exposes gaps in law

By Wang Yu

A male prostitution ring was shut down in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province last week. Four men who were involved in the case have been sentenced to imprisonment of up to five years for running a Web site that offered sex services to male clients.

Zheng Shuyi, 35, was accused of registering the Web address "nannanboy.com" on August 10, 2007, for his male spa. The spa was a front for a more complex prostitution system.

Zheng connected with customers through the Web site and rented two apartments to use as brothels.

The sex sold for an average 300 yuan per session.

The organization was well managed and its men worked on a number system, where they were given free accommodations for which a cut was taken from their pay. Many advertisements for the Web site can still be found in Internet cache files with the line "Cute boys are available."

The lawyer for Zheng's defense said the law against prostitution only applies to women selling sex—but the court said any paid sex acts can be defined as prostitution.

Though the law does not ban homosexual activities, it has always

been a sensitive topic.

A similar case which attracted nationwide attention happened in 2003 in Nanjing. Li Ning, a bar owner, was brought to trial for recruiting male prostitutes for homosexual customers. The case was reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top lawmaking body, and its legal affairs committee ruled in October that Li would stand trial. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Chen Yi represented Li in his defense, and he said the debate about such cases exists because of ambiguous laws. "Selling sex to

homosexuals is not identified as prostitution by the law. The explanation from the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the Supreme People's Court, to which all lawyers may refer when handling such a case, is at best confusing," Chen said.

In last week's case, the pimp for whom a male prostitute with syphilis worked was also found guilty of spreading a sexual disease.

Though homosexuality is not illegal in China, some desperate people put themselves at risk despite their sexual orientation. Most of the male prostitutes are heterosexual, and are only in it for the money.

People who sell sex are not defined as criminals according to the law, but as entrepreneurs who run a business. In 2007, the Committee for Internal and Judicial Affairs of Chongqing amended local regulations to define the sale of sex between people of the same gender as prostitution. "But most jurists considered it inappropriate for a lower-level law to fill in the gaps of a higher-level one," Chen said.

Such cases have received extensive media coverage.

"There are still blank spots in China's criminal law which makes the judgment lack a legal basis," Chen said.

2,000 wushu practitioners kowtow to master



Wushu practitioners from 69 countries gathered in Shiyan, Hubei Province, to join the Third International Traditional Wushu Festival. Master You Xuande from Wudan, one of the Chinese wushu masters, is a teacher to many foreign wushu students. The festival lasts from Wednesday to Sunday.

CFP Photo

Fate is cruel to a migrant worker's boy

By Annie Wei

At 7 years old, Zhang Jiahui knows well what fate has in store for him. He has seen the small coffin his father made for him, and has told his neighbors that he will die.

Zhang Jiahui, 7, was diagnosed with leukemia half a year ago while his father Zhang Zhiwen, 45, a migrant worker from Chengde, Hebei Province, was working in Jiangxi Province.

After his diagnosis, the family returned to Beijing to seek medical aid. Their doctor said treatment would require at least 200,000 yuan. His father sold everything they owned and borrowed all they could, but they came up with only 50,000 yuan. Despite the home they rented costing 190 yuan per month, they defaulted on a quarterly payment and their landlord evicted them.

Several days ago, Zhang moved his family again to live with his wife's former mother-in-law. The wife's ex-husband had been sentenced to life in prison.

Out of money and out of options, Zhang Zhiwen pulled his son out of the Military General Hospital of the Beijing PLA. The boy has stayed alive this long due to bimonthly blood transfusions. Each session costs 210 yuan, and each leaves Zhang Jiahui feeling better. When lack of funds forces his parents to delay a transfusion,

the boy begs for one.

Zhang Zhiwen knew his son's cure was a long shot. He appealed to several charity organizations for aid: none came. Now all they can do is hope to donate their son's organs or remains.

Yu Jing, a worker from the eyeball bank at Tongren Hospital, said Zhang's family had called several times. However, the boy is locked out of their donor program because of his leukemia. A staff member from Xiehe Hospital's remains donation center said they accept the remains of people of all ages.

The Harbin Blood Disease and Tumor Research Institute said 4 million people in China are diagnosed with leukemia: 50 percent of these are children. Ma Jun, dean of the institute, said they receive reports of 1,200 new children with leukemia every year. Only 10 percent are able to pursue treatment.

A staff member from Beijing-based China Red Cross Foundation's Little Angel Fund, which is intended to help children under 14 years old, said they receive many phone calls for help every day, but it is impossible for them to predict when each child will receive aid. "It depends on how much money we can raise," he said.

This year's earthquake and snow disasters cut off many sources of their funding, the staff member said.

Park management incensed as two heads head for auction

By Venus Lee

Two cultural relics stolen from Yuanmingyuan, the Old Summer Palace, over a century ago by the Eight-nation Allied Forces are scheduled for overseas auction.

Christie's, a British auctioneer of fine arts, previously announced 700 collections of the late French designer Yves Saint Laurent for auction February 23 to 25 in Paris. All proceeds from the auction will be used for AIDS prevention and other scientific studies sponsored by the Pierre Berge-Yves Saint Laurent Foundation. However, among the pieces are the bronze rat and rabbit statues plundered from the

Yuanmingyuan zodiac circle.

"Each of the bronze sculptures is expected to sell for €8 to 10 million. Revenue from the auction will be used to establish a new anti-HIV foundation," Wang Jie, spokeswoman for Christie (Shanghai), said.

However, the Yuanmingyuan management strongly opposed the auction.

"It is neither fair nor civilized to sell cultural relics stolen by the Eight-nation Allied Forces. So I condemn such behavior. Although the Christie and Pierre Berge-Yves Saint Laurent foundation said the auction will fund public works, it

seems just a cover to me," Yang Yunlai, director of the park's press department, said.

Song Xinchao, an official in the cultural official of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage said, "According to international convention, we hope the cultural relics can be returned to China. As for the method of return, the last thing we want to see is the auction. Although we respect collector's will, we hope we can get the cultural relics by giving him or her some compensation. We also welcome and advocate their donation."

"The auction is legitimate. We

will auction the Yves Saint Laurent collection in accordance with collector's will, where he asked that all his pieces be sold at the same auction and the revenue be used for public works projects. His partner Pierre Berge decided to cooperate with Christie's to hold the auction," Wang Jie said.

The Relics Recovery Foundation, a non-governmental organization dedicated to recovering plundered Chinese relics, said it will try to contact the auctioneer and negotiate a mutually acceptable solution. "We cannot accept that the plundered cultural relics are to go to auction," Niu Xian-

feng, the director-general of the foundation, said.

The two pieces were part of Yuanmingyuan's 12 bronze animal statues inspired by the Chinese zodiac. The heads of all the bronze animals were stolen during the Eight-nation Allied Force's invasion in 1860, near the end of the Qing Dynasty. At that time, Yuanmingyuan was torched. Only five of the animal's heads, the pig, tiger, ox, monkey and horse, have been recovered from international auction markets. The locations of the remaining pieces are unknown, aside from the two currently scheduled for auction.

No legal recourse for milk scandal victims



As many as 50,000 babies were affected by the tainted milk. IC Photo



Sanlu milk is collected and destroyed in Shijiazhuang. CFP Photos

By Zhang Dongya

It has been two months since September 12, the day the scandal of Chinese milk as contaminated with melamine was exposed to the world.

The Ministry of Health announced on October 15 that 5,824 of the children who developed kidney problems remain hospitalized. Since the Sanlu incident broke, at least four babies perished and another 50,000 were sickened.

Most of the victims are from rural families who cannot foot the high medical bills. Enterprises that sold tainted milk are expected to pay compensations, but none of the courts have been willing to hear the related lawsuits.

Silence from the courts

On September 22, the parents of Xiaotao, a one-year-old victim of the contamination in Henan Province, received a letter from the Zhenping County Court of Henan. Their lawsuit was the first filed after Sanlu's contamination was exposed.

The court's spokesman said they would receive a reply within seven days to state whether or not their case had been accepted. As of the end of October, the couple was still waiting for a reply.

"We asked Sanlu to compensate us, but they said the company had not decided how it would pay out to affected families. So we sued them for 150,000 yuan," Ji Cheng, the lawyer from Beijing Deheng Lawyer Office who took charge of their case, said.

Couples in Guangdong Province encountered the same problem on October 8.

Chen Beiyuan, a prominent consumer rights lawyer, sued Sanlu on behalf of an 11-month-old baby for 900,000 yuan in medical bills, emotional and punitive damages. He also sued the Dairy Association.

Chen, like the couple in Henan Province, has received no reply from the Guangzhou Municipal Intermediate People's Court.

Similar incidents were reported in Gansu, Shanxi and other provinces.

This Wednesday, the lawyer Ji Cheng, together with three other lawyers, brought nine cases to the court in Shijiazhuang, where Sanlu is located. Their cases were summarily rejected by the court.

Uncommon tort case

The latest draft of the food safety law opened to public opinion in April. According to the "stricter" standards, only administrative compensations are included. Companies found

to operate illegally will be fined and suspended, and their profits will be confiscated.

"For this case, most lawyers turned to the product quality laws and consumer protection laws as the bases for their suit," Chen Beiyuan said.

According to the two laws, the case of melamine contamination should be a common tort case no different from the medical scandal two years ago in Qiqihar and last year's MTX (methotrexate) incident in Shanghai.

In Qiqihar, 10 victims who were unsatisfied with the company's compensation plan sued the company and were awarded 450,000 to 700,000 yuan in damages.

"However, the Sanlu incident involved more people in a wider area, so it became a public health issue. Public policy is expected to take effect so the case may proceed," Chen said.

Thus far, the government has promised free medical care for all babies affected by the tainted milk. "We are still waiting to see how the government's compensation policy works. If consumers accept it, then there will be no need for a lawsuit against Sanlu," Ji Cheng said.

Punitive damages urgently needed

According to article 44 of the Law on Product Quality revised in 2000, where bodily injury is caused by a product due to its defect, the infringer shall compensate the medical expenses of the infringed, the decreased earnings due to the loss of his working time as well as a subsistence allowance if the infringed is disabled.

The lawyer Chen Beiyuan suggested adding punitive dam-



The government said it will bear the medical fees for all children under three.



The victim's parents from Henan sued Sanlu in a local court.

ages to this article, which should be at least three times the compensation.

More lawyers are appealing to the courts for the establishment of a punitive damages system like those established in Western countries. The high fees could help warn others companies in the industry and compensate the victims. "It is the most efficient way proven to restrict infringement of the law," Chen said.

Also, in view of the Morinaga milk incident in Japan, in which arsenic contamination was discovered in its powdered milk in 1955, the Dairy Association should also be held responsible for the scandal. That is why Chen chose to place the association in the defendant's seat.



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China warns on emissions control

(BBC) – China has admitted that controlling greenhouse emissions is a “difficult task” and warned there is little prospect of early improvement.

In its first policy paper on climate change, Beijing acknowledged that its greenhouse gas emissions are equal to those of the US.

China's reliance on coal to

ensure economic growth makes pollution control difficult, the paper says. It adds that the developed world should do more on the issue.

The paper admits the problems caused by climate change. “Extreme climate phenomena, such as high temperatures, heavy precipitation and severe droughts, have increased in frequency and intensity.”

But it says the “coal-dominated energy mix cannot be substantially changed in the near future, thus making the control of greenhouse gas emissions rather difficult”.

The country's top climate change negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, said Beijing would consider limits on its worst polluting industries if wealthier

nations handed over the technology to help clean them up.

China's fast GDP growth in the past 30 years has lifted tens of millions of people out of poverty and economic development is sure to remain its top priority, Mr Xie said.

But he added: “There is no other road for China except the road to sustainable development.”

China begins investigation of tainted eggs

(AFP) – Officials in northeast China said Wednesday they were looking into reports that eggs from a local company were tainted with the toxic chemical melamine and vowed “severe punishment,” Xinhua news agency reported.

The government of Dalian, a major port city in northeast China, said in a notice that contaminated eggs discovered in Hong Kong were produced by a local company on September 6, Xinhua reported.

Xinhua did not name the company, but earlier reports identified it as the Hanwei Group, one of China's top egg producers.

The discovery of the tainted eggs has led to mounting fears that melamine, which has killed four babies and sickened 53,000, may have contaminated a larger share of China's food supply than previously thought.

Journalists demand ‘hush money’ at coal mine

(Reuters) – The government is investigating dozens of “journalists,” some genuine, some not, who demanded hush money from a coal mine after a pit accident killed one person, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The mine did not report the death to the local government in northern Shanxi province when the accident happened in September, the *Beijing News* reported. The owner was fined 8,000 yuan.

“Around 40 or 50 ‘journalists’ came here for money,” the news daily quoted an official at the mine as saying. They demanded sums of up to 10,000 yuan for not publicizing the death, he said.

The country's coal mines are the world's most dangerous, killing nearly 3,800 people last year, as high demand for energy from a booming economy pushes managers to cut safety corners.

81-year-old man finds love online

(Reuters) – An 81-year-old Chinese man has proven age need not be a barrier to Internet love, marrying a 58-year-old woman he met online, a local newspaper reported.

Wu Jieqin, a retired Beijing art professor who has spent time in a retirement home, married Jiang Xiaohui, 23 years younger, in a ceremony last weekend, the *Beijing News* reported.

“The Internet doesn't belong to the young alone,” he told the paper. He said he had been using the Internet since 1998.

But to reach the altar, Wu had to overcome the opposition of Jiang's parents, aged 85 and 86, who feared he was too old.

But she won them over.

The couple met after Wu, lonely since his divorce a decade ago, put a lonely hearts notice on a Chinese Web site last year with the help of a student.

Not that the feisty retiree with thin gray hair was not picky.

“As Internet mates of his own age did not suit him, he set his sights on a woman in her 40s or 50s,” the report said.

Global cyclists peddle in Taicang



The first Nordic Ways Road Bike event at Taicang city in the Shanghai area took place last weekend. As many as 200 racers from over twenty countries and regions attended the event.

The bike festival involved a professional race as well as an open race for both men and women. There were relay races in different categories, such as a Company relay, University relay, Club relay and Children's Race.

Photo provided by Nordic Ways

As stress grows, Chinese turn to Western psychotherapy

(Bloomberg) – When Li Xianyun began working as a psychiatrist at Hui Long Guan Hospital in Beijing in 1991, she did not discuss her job in public. People thought it was strange, she said, and they assumed she worked in an insane asylum. Now, those she meets are eager to learn more about her profession.

“If I tell them I'm a psychiatrist and talk about my job, they show their admiration,” said Li, 40. “They want my suggestions on how to raise children and how to deal with all kinds of difficulties.”

In the past 30 years, China's system of government-assigned jobs and apartments has become a capitalist free-for-all, with cutthroat competition for education and work and a widening gap between rich and poor. To cope with the stress, some people are turning to a Western tool: psychotherapy.

This is a radical shift in a nation where focus on the individual was discouraged by both socialist ideology and traditional culture.

“There are great changes happening in Chinese society, and people are more open and pay more attention to their inner mind,” says Zheng Yu, a therapist in Chengdu, in western China.

Job pressures may be a contributing factor. Fifty-one percent of Chinese respondents to a survey by Hudson Highland Group reported higher work stress than a year ago. It is the second consecutive year in which China has registered the highest stress levels in Asia, the recruitment firm, based in New York, said in a report in October.

“When some people get rich, they say, ‘I'm successful, but I'm still unhappy,’” said Kathy Li, 37, who quit working in media in 2005 to start her own counseling business in Beijing. “People are realizing more and more what can make them happy is not from the outside world but from the inside.”

China's traditional culture esteems “saving face,” which means emphasizing the positive and addressing embarrassing issues obliquely. This approach conflicts with the process of openly discussing problems that is inherent to most psychotherapy.

Li said she did not receive any psychotherapy training in medical school. She uses counseling with many of her clients, partly because the Chinese also have a cultural aversion to drugs.

Trend: Psychotherapy to cope with financial crisis

By Jin Zhu

The world financial crisis seems to be the only thing Beijing's white collar workers can talk about. The impact of the crisis, such as the fall in the stock market and staff reductions, is troubling office workers. And according to psychotherapy institutions in Beijing, cases of depression brought about by the financial crisis have increased in the last two months.

The China-Japan Friendship Hospital said that each month, it has about 10 cases of depression related to work pressure or economic problems. But this month, the number of cases more than doubled to 25. The clinic in Huilongguan Hospital reported that patients they treat for depression have increased by 30 percent.

A recent study published in the *Legal Evening News* said that more than 85 percent of cases of depression at six psychotherapy institutions in Beijing were brought about by

the financial crisis.

“Psychological reactions usually appear much slower. Relatively few people have been diagnosed to suffer from depression at this point. But in the near future, the number of patients suffering from depression is likely to increase,” said Li Zixun, deputy director physician at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital.

The financial crisis has also adversely affected the employment of fresh university graduates. In order to help graduates cope with the situation, many universities in Shanghai have given talks on psychotherapy.

“Our school's psychology consultation center has started lessons for graduates,” said Xu Guoqing, deputy director of the Employment Guide Center at the East China University of Science and Technology. “Many graduates have noticed the importance of psychological health and turn to psychotherapy to cope with stress.”

Should China buy up US assets?

By Huang Daohen

With huge international reserves of US \$1.9 trillion, China is considered the island of stability amid the current financial crisis. There are no chances of a large-scale crisis in the Chinese economy. China can maintain its own stability, but it may also be able to help developed countries weather the crisis.

The question is whether China should buy up cheap US assets, and is it ready to lay out the money?

To buy or not

"This is still not the right time for Chinese capital to buy up US assets," Lin Yifu, World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, said in an interview at the high-level international forum in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the policy of reform and

opening-up on Monday.

Lin said China is a country relatively short on capital and it cannot afford to export more capital to developed countries in terms of per capita capital.

China should take advantage of this time to build up its foreign exchange, or use its capital to help more Chinese products enter the international market, Lin said.

Lin said that China's economic growth rate is expected to be 8-9 percent next year. "The contribution of its rapid economic growth will be the greatest to the world," he said.

However, Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said China may want to buy based on the strength of its existing international reserves.

Bad loans make up 5 percent of

Chinese banks' assets, which work mainly with the domestic market, Zhao said. That figure was 50 percent in 1997-1998, when Asia was rocked by its own financial crisis.

Besides, China's dependence on exports is also less heavy than it may seem at first glance. Officially, exports account for 37 percent of its revenues and seem to be the driver of the Chinese economy.

China could may gain much more from energetic action on the world market, Zhao said.

Actually, there are the modest international achievements made by the China Investment Corporation (CIC), China's sovereign investment fund set up last year, to manage as much as US \$500 billion.

In 2007, the CIC spent US \$3 billion to buy into US investment company Blackstone Group, and

paid US \$5 billion for a 9.9 percent stake in Morgan Stanley.

As a result of the current crisis, the value of these two assets has plunged by at least two-thirds.

Buying Wall Street talents

In addition to the debate on whether or not to buy the cheap US assets, Financial institutions in Shanghai have started snapping up jobless Wall Street professionals.

Some local funds and securities companies, led by Shanghai's financial working commission, may go to Wall Street later this year to hunt for possible recruits, according to the working commission.

"Although the city is becoming more of a player in the global financial market, we have a dearth of employees with global financial expertise," Xie Lin, an official at the commission, said.

Microsoft told to rethink 'black-out' anti-piracy tactics

The government told US software giant Microsoft to reconsider its controversial new anti-piracy tool that causes computer screens to turn black if the operating system is identified as pirated, Xinhua reported.

"Whether the 'black-out' method should be adopted is open to question," said Yan Xiaohong, vice director of the National Copyright Administration, according to a report carried by Xinhua news agency late Monday.

"Measures for safeguarding (intellectual property) rights must be appropriate. We are paying great attention to the 'black-out' issue."

Yan's comments came after Microsoft rolled out an update to its Windows Genuine Advantage program, which turns computer desktops black every hour if the installed Windows XP operating system fails an authenticity test.

The move has caused an outcry among Chinese users, who have branded it as "unfair" monopoly tactics designed to make average Chinese pay prices that are far out of step with their incomes, Xinhua reported earlier.

Toyota to build 7th plant in China

Toyota Motor said Monday it would invest 4 billion yuan to set up its seventh auto factory in China in response to strong demand.

Japan's top automaker will build its new plant in Changchun, capital of Jilin Province, to produce 100,000 units of its popular Corolla model per year, it said in a statement.

"We will build the new plant to accommodate expanding demand in China," Toyota spokesman Paul Nolasco said. The new plant will be a 50-50 joint venture with Chinese partner FAW Group. Toyota gave no further details including when the new factory would begin production.

BYD lines up EU channel for hybrid car

China's BYD has signed 10 distributors for its plug-in hybrid car in Europe ahead of its targeted entry into that market in 2010, a senior company executive said on Tuesday.

BYD Auto, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-listed rechargeable battery maker, has used its expertise in batteries to develop rechargeable electric vehicles that it hopes will eventually compete with General Motors and Toyota Motor.

The firm, which soon plans to begin selling its first electric hybrid car in China, also wants to ship it to Europe, where potential fleet buyers including Deutsche Post AG's delivery arm DHL Express have indicated initial interest, said Henry Li, general manager of BYD Auto's export trade division.

"We'll start selling in Europe before we get into the US," Li told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He said the company had started working with regulators in Europe and in the US - where it has yet to secure local distributors - to pass stringent safety and emissions standards mandated for new entrants. (Agencies)

Smart vending machine promotes smart car



A vending machine called "smart," with a full-size of Mercedes-Benz Smart Car in it, was placed at Wangfujing street in downtown Beijing yesterday to promote the brand. Pushing the button on the machine won't exactly pop out a car, but it does dispense a branded cube also called "smart" at the price of 1 yuan each. The cubes contain information about the new models. CFP Photo

ASUS accused of defamation

By Huang Daohen

Computer hardware maker ASUS stands accused of defamation, selling defective products and false accusations, Zhan Lan, a lawyer at the Beijing Dacheng Law Agency, said Tuesday.

"In addition to suing ASUS, we are also considering litigation against related companies, like Intel," Zhang said on behalf of Huang Jing, a young woman who was earlier accused by ASUS of extortion.

Zhang said Intel, as the manufacturer of engineering sample chips, did not show any responsibility in Huang's case and allowed its sample chips to flow into market, causing damage to consumers.

Huang's case with ASUS started when she was still a university student on February 9, 2006. The young girl bought a V6800V model ASUS laptop from a Beijing retailer, but found her computer had many

problems including frequent blue screens and lock-ups.

Though Huang sent back the computer several times for repairs to ASUS, some of the problems remained. Later examination showed that the new CPU was an Intel sample chip, Zhou Chenyu, Huang's former lawyer, was quoted by the *Beijing Youth Daily* as saying.

"The sample is not the kind permitted for sale on the market," Zhou said.

Huang and Zhou demanded that ASUS pay a compensation of US \$5 million, threatening to break the news to the media and take ASUS to court. ASUS rejected all of Zhou's requests.

On March 7, 2006, when Huang and Zhou went to ASUS for the last time, they were both arrested by the police and charged with extortion. In December 2006, Huang was released from jail. The Haidian District procurator issued a decision of exemption from criminal



Intel CEO Paul Otellini's speech was interrupted by Zhou on Wednesday.

prosecution to Huang deeming the evidence against her inadequate.

Zhou said this time he had adequate evidence to win the case. "Using the engineering sample chips in laptops is a secret in China's computer market, and we want to expose that," Zhou said.

Zhou on Wednesday interrupted a speech by Intel CEO Paul Otellini at Peking University, accus-

ing the chip giant of covering up for ASUS in consumer rights litigation.

Otellini's speech was disrupted before security guards removed Zhou from the conference hall.

Aside from the lawsuit, Zhou said he has put up a Web site listing alleged incidents of ASUS cheating its customers.

ASUS was not reachable for comment as of press time.

798 struggles at crossroads of commercialization

By Huang Daohen

The recent spate of demolitions, road resurfacings and rising rent will be the death knell to 798 Art District, Hao Guang, a French Chinese painter who ran a gallery at 798, said recently in an open letter, stirring off a heated debate on the area's future.

Recent months have seen the art zone consumed by the management committee's brutal construction and renovation, Hao said in the letter, which called on the city's leadership for assistance.

One gallery that ran for more than two years had to give way to a six-storey parking structure Hao said. While the car park is apparently being built to cash in on the visitor boom, Hao said he believes it shows how 798 is turning from an edgy, creative space loved by artists and small galleries into a tourist attraction.

Hao suggested that the Beijing municipal government set up a special committee to manage the area.

"When I first came, there were more artists than galleries," Hao said. "It felt underground, now it feels far less alternative."

"I am sure lots of people will love the reformed 798, but it will become very expensive, more exclusive. They will reduce its audience," he added.

Hao said the rent was also unreasonable, with the price five to ten times higher than during the past seven years.

Huang Rui, who was among the first artists to establish a studio here in early 2002, said: "Nowadays, the world is suffering from a financial crisis. The rising rent will surely force many studio artists to leave."



Hao Guang's open letter brought 798 Art District under spotlight again over whether it is too commercialized.

IC Photo

However, the Star Group, the property management company in charge of 798, said Hao's allegations were false. "The rental price was made according to the law," an official from the company who only gave his surname Ma, said. "We have no right to set the price ourselves."

As for the criticism of over commercialization and reconstruction, Ma said the company's initial goal was to create a better environment for both visitors and artists, while causing the least damage to the place's original appearance.

The perceived commercialization of the art district, which is named after a former electronics factory, Factory 798 and divided up by artists into galleries and studios, comes as Chinese paintings and sculptures are dominating art auctions across the world.

Expert view

"I think the commercialization of the 798 Art District will inevitably lead to the withdrawal of the artists," said Ai Weiwei, a Chinese artist who was among the first to establish 798.

"It is the result of the economic laws," he said.

Ai said New York City's Soho art district is a precedent. Before the arrival of artists, Soho was composed of ordinary low-cost blocks. When the artists turned up in the area, however, Soho attracted an increasing number of brand stores, studios and gal-

leries, and shortly became the most expensive fashionable district in New York. Artists were eventually forced to move out of the area due to rising rent.

Ai said that 798 is in danger of going Soho's way. "If the 798 Art District managers do not reduce rent, the withdrawal of artists will follow naturally. Then 798 will be the next Soho," he said.

"Art and artists are the core of the 798 Art District. Only if the interests of the artists are respected will the area see a healthy development," Ai said.

Comment

Land ownership causing trouble

I think the ownership of the land is the key issue. Artists want to create art free of restrictions, while enterprises aim for profit. There will definitely be conflicts. Some of Hao's suggestions are feasible, but the 798 management's model works right now, though they could have been more professional in implementing it.

— Wu Xijun, vice director of the Chaoyang Department of Information

A by-product

Financial success, creative laxity! While 798 has undoubtedly gotten a facelift, this is arguably an inevitable by-product of growing popularity.

— Roberto Chen, editor

Enterprise must be feeling the pressure of the controversy. Can there be a way for both sides to see the soul of the art and the gains brought about by commercialization?

— Jeff Bass, US teacher

Debate of the week

Mother who suffocates daughter gets light prison sentence

By Venus Lee

After taking her handicapped daughter to see doctor after doctor for the past 20 years, a 47-year-old woman from Jiangsu Province, unable to bear the burden, decided to suffocate her daughter.

Last week, Beijing's Haidian Court gave Li Daohong a light sentence after relatives, neighbors and her village committee pleaded with the court to grant her clemency. She was sentenced to three years in prison.

In 1988, Li gave birth to a girl with severe cerebral paralysis. Li had to look after her daughter day and night, and in the hope of finding a cure, visited hospitals around the country. Unfortunately, the daughter never got better.

At the beginning of last year, Li again took her daughter to see doctors in Beijing. But this time, she suffocated her daughter at a hotel in Haidian District.

After the crime, her relatives and neighbors wrote the court a letter saying Li was a responsible mother and that they sympathized with her difficult life. The court

apparently considered the letter's contents in its judgment.

"I don't want to comment on the judgment, but she had no right to take her daughter's life even if her daughter had severe mental handicap. It was a human life, not a thing," Richard Yu, a TV program producer, said.

Cooking skills: necessary to graduate from primary school?

By Jackie Zhang

Primary and middle school students in Chengdu's Qingyang District cannot graduate if they cannot cook, according to a new scheme released Wednesday by the district's Education Bureau.

The plan requires primary and middle school students to master at least two kinds of sports, one artistic skill and one basic living skill, like cleaning house, cooking and sewing. An examination will be held before graduation each year, and students who fail in these areas will not be able to graduate.

The new policy has been disputed by parents and students. "The pressure for us to study has become even bigger. Starting when I was in Grade 2, my parents have

asked me to learn painting and piano on weekends and during summer vacations. Now I must quit one of the classes in order to have time to learn how to cook and sew," 10-year-old Li Wei said.

Zhang Hong, father of a 9-year-old boy, disagrees with the scheme as well. "We have focused on our son's art and physical education," he said. "In my opinion, academics must be emphasized in primary and middle school. They can learn to cook and other related skills in university."

Teachers, in contrast, strongly support the policy. Li Yuanyuan, who works as director of the education department at a middle school in Chengdu, said children no longer know how to take care of themselves.

Railway's special treatment of Japanese passengers upsets others

By Venus Lee

In order to help seven Japanese passengers catch their plane on time, a Dalian train decided to make an unscheduled stop to let the passengers off. The move earned the railway the passengers' praise, but became the subject of criticism among the Chinese.

Dalian train 2220, run by Shenyang rail-

way bureau, decided to stop for one minute at the port city's Zhoushuizi station close to the airport to let the Japanese passengers off on August 22. Afterwards, Dalian railway received a letter from the passengers saying: "No other country in the world except China would have done what you did. The train won us precious time to catch our plane. It was an unprecedented move in Chinese railway history."

When the letter was published on the Internet and the Shenyang railway bureau admitted its authenticity, the event immediately became a discussion topic. Most opposed the railway's action. They think it showed bias towards the Japanese and exhibited how foreigners in China enjoy special treatment.

But some netizens said China is a hospitable nation and foreigners, who are guests, should be given extra help.

Xiao Di, a train conductor at the railway told *Beijing Today*: "Actually, passengers on my train have been talking about it. They are indignant about the special treatment given to the Japanese. Those passengers have given train 2220 bad nicknames such as 'the train of Japanese slaves' and 'train of shame'."

"Nothing is richer than life itself"

Film maker Roman Polanski pays first visit to China



Roman Polanski

CFP Photo

By Zheng Lu

Two years later than he originally planned, film maker Roman Polanski stood before Chinese fans at the opening ceremony of the Polish Film Week last Friday.

In 2006, Polanski said he would travel to China to promote *Oliver Twist*, his new film that year. As fans eagerly awaited his visit, Polanski suddenly cancelled the trip days before his departure because of his doctor's advice.

But he never imagined the embrace he would receive from his Chinese fans. "I am so moved by your warm welcome, which is something I have never received in other countries," Polanski, 75, said at the event.

After his movie *The Pianist* was screened twice last weekend, Polanski conducted a lecture at the Beijing Film Academy this Monday. He told students about his experience in film production and patiently answered questions – with none of the wariness he usually displays around reporters.

Polanski said he became a film director because he was better at expressing himself through drawings rather than writing. He considers himself a gifted director, but said, "It does not mean it came easily for me. I have spent a long time and given much effort toward my

productions."

When asked how much film theory helped him in making films, Polanski said it was not about theories, but guiding principles. "My principle is to tell good stories and speak when necessary. If not, then shut up."

When students asked how important going to film school is, the director said: "I am a product of film school ... Schools cannot teach talent, but it can teach talents how to use it."

Polanski advised aspiring directors to appear in other director's films if they would like to try acting. "When I appear in my own film, I cannot concentrate on my performance, because I cannot help noticing the stage setting or other actors' costumes," he said. "I easily get angry when other actors cannot say their lines right."

When someone asked whether he planned camera shots in advance or would come up with it on site, Polanski said he would make plans, but also make changes depending on what happens during filming. "After all," he said, "nothing is richer than life itself."

The Polish Film Week is now being presented in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Six modern Polish films including *The Pianist* will be screened there until Monday.

French artist raises money for leukemia patient

By Zhang Dongya

"If we call someone 'friend,' we should be willing to go through good times, bad times, happy times and hard times together," said Olivia Roth, a Swiss woman in Beijing who is trying to raise 400,000 yuan for the treatment of a Chinese friend with cancer.

Obsessed with Chinese ceramic craft

Roth, born in 1968 in Switzerland, majored in Economics in college. After graduation, she worked for a communications company in Germany for six years. At a German museum one day, she saw a vase from Zibo, Shandong Province and thus began her obsession with Chinese ceramics. "When I saw it, I immediately knew this was my style and just what I wanted to learn," she said.

Roth quit her job in Germany and studied ceramic art for four years at a college in Britain. Afterwards, through a private charity organization, she got a chance to come to China and learn the craft.

"I went to several ceramic product bases like Jingdezhen and Shanghai, but I found out I was particularly fascinated with the ones in Zibo, Shandong," she said. In 2006, she became an appren-

tice to an artist in Shandong, Shao Shiqing, who had worked with ceramics for 60 years. At the same time, Roth began studying Chinese at the Shandong Normal University.

A promise is a promise

Since Roth could not speak a word of Chinese at the time, getting through each day was a hardship. She could not even buy a bar of soap or shampoo. "I felt totally lost," she said.

At the school library one day, a student named Liu Jiangtao helped her with a Chinese-language computer. From then on, the two became good friends. "It was Jiangtao who helped me go through hard times and he is my first and best friend in China," Roth said.

Last November, Roth was shocked to discover that Liu had been diagnosed with leukemia, a bone marrow disease, and needed 400,000 yuan for treatment. Liu was born into a peasant family and had nowhere to get the money.

"I could not bear the thought of him dying, so I decided to help him," Roth said. After local enterprises in Shandong failed to help, she turned to her friends in Europe and was able to raise 60,000 yuan.

Liu has since been transferred to



Roth (right) visits Liu in the hospital every week.

Photo provided by Liu Jiangtao

Beijing for treatment, and Roth has come along, continuing her Chinese studies at the central university for Nationalities.

A deep love for the earth

Roth has been encouraged by friends and acquaintances to get a job at an art gallery at Beijing's 798 Art District. But she is not keen on the idea. "I don't think it is the right place for me. I just want

intimate contact with the earth. I need to touch it and to create out of it," she said.

At present, however, her primary job is to raise money for Jiangtao. "The doctor said the best time for his operation is in November, so we have to hurry," she said.

Though life is hard right now, Roth said she "will not give up hope for life."

EU sees investment opportunities in quake-torn Sichuan

By Han Manman

There is great potential for European Union (EU) firms to set up investments in Sichuan Province, parts of which were devastated in May's earthquake, officials and businesspeople have said.

Some 200 businesspeople and officials attended the EU-Sichuan Investment and Cooperation Conference in Chengdu last Sunday, which featured information on reconstruction credits, cooperation partners and exchanges among European companies with experience doing business in the region.

World Bank, French loan for Sichuan

During the conference, the World Bank and the French Development Agency (AFD) said they will give China a loan of upwards US \$900 million (6 billion yuan) for the reconstruction of areas devastated by the May 12 quake.

The World Bank will provide an emergency recovery loan of US \$710 million, and part of the money, US \$510 million, will be allocated to Sichuan. Another US \$200 million will go to neighboring Gansu Province, said Ede Ljjasz, the bank's sustainable development manager in charge of the China and Mongolia sector.

The loans, expected to get The World

Bank board's approval in December, are designed to facilitate the construction of roads, bridges, water supply pipelines, hospitals and child health care facilities.

AFD will loan China US \$200 million which will be used to help construct urban infrastructure and rural houses, said Martha Stein-Sochas, the bank's Asian affairs division head.

Sponsored Links: EU investments

Many EU companies viewed Sichuan as a "big cake" and plan to make big investments in the province.

Guy Dufraisie, president of Schneider Electric China, said that after the magnitude-8 quake, Sichuan faced a huge demand in the construction of infrastructure facilities and electrical supply systems, which are areas his business can move into.

Pierre Bertholat, vice-president of Carrefour China said the quake and the US financial crisis will not deter Carrefour's plans to investment in Sichuan. He said his company is looking for the best places in second-level cities like Panzhihua and Mianyang in which to open new supermarkets. Bertholat said Carrefour will invest 250 million yuan in Sichuan, while in Chengdu alone, it will provide 1,000-2,000 jobs.

According to a survey on how the earth-

quake has influenced Chengdu's economy, released by KPMG China last month, nearly 80 percent of international enterprises think the earthquake will not disrupt their investment plans and 60 percent believe the earthquake's effects will no longer be felt in a year.

Huge potential

"We want to show that the situation is not just about struggling, but that there are business opportunities there too," EU Chamber of Commerce President Joerg Wuttke said.

Sichuan's metropolitan areas and the city of Chongqing, home to 120 million people, present a "huge potential purchasing power," Wuttke said.

Sichuan - where an estimated 80,000 people were killed in the May earthquake - was a major industrial region of growing importance compared with China's eastern seaboard, he added.

Chen Xingdong, chief economist of BNP Paribas securities, said there are many big advantages in investing in Sichuan. "Sichuan has a huge labor force resource," Chen said, adding, "While China's enterprises along the coast have been deeply affected by the American financial crisis, Sichuan still has untapped opportunities."

UN says AIDS discrimination still widespread in China

By Huang Daohen

Efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS-related discrimination have failed to stamp out the widespread stigmatization of victims, according to a survey funded by UNAIDS.

The survey, carried out among the adult population in six urban centers in China, shows that 30 percent of respondents think HIV-positive children should not be allowed to study at the same schools as uninfected children.

Nearly 65 percent of interviewees said they would be unwilling to live in the same household as an HIV-infected person and 48 percent refused to have a meal with a person with HIV, the report released yesterday said.

Wang Longde, president of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association and former vice minister of Health, said China has done a tremendous job implementing anti-HIV/AIDS discrimination policies and legislation but enduring misconceptions were stopping victims from seeking treatment.

"People who feel stigmatized will not come forward or dare to seek medical treatment, and guidance, and by doing so put further fuel the fire for the spread of HIV," Wang said.

"I commend China for the legal framework. However, I understand from my many discussions here that much remains to be done to ensure the rights of people living with HIV are protected in practice," Edwin Cameron, the South African Supreme Court Judge and advocate in the fight against AIDS and discrimination, said.

Cameron is openly living with HIV and is visiting China at the invitation of the Minister of Health and UNAIDS. During his visit, he met with high level representatives of the Chinese government, civil society and business leaders, academics, as well as with people living with HIV.

As of end 2007, the UN puts the number of HIV/AIDS sufferers in China at 700,000. In 2007, approximately 50,000 new infections occurred and there were an estimated 20,000 AIDS related deaths.

Sexual transmission is now the most common way of HIV infections in China, the report said.

110 foreign officials study Chinese in Beijing



Beijing No 71 Primary School welcomed 110 officials from 48 developing countries. They are the second group of such guests invited into China by the Ministry of Commerce.

The 110 functionaries will spend two to four months in China for Chinese studies and communications. The activity aims to help foreign officials become emissaries on Chinese culture and foster friendship between China and other developing countries.

(By Jin Zhu)
CFP Photo

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Alumni of world's top universities face off in Dragon Boat race

By Zheng Lu

With an increasing number of graduates from top schools abroad studying or working in Beijing, a series of socializing activities was held in town last weekend.

Among the most awaited was Saturday's Dragon Boat Race that saw in competition alumni from Harvard and Yale in the US and Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College in the UK.

Despite the cold weather and the strong wind, the racers woke up early for the invitational game and warmed up around Chaoyang's Gaobeidian Lake.

When it was time for the race to start at 9 am, the wind blew so strongly that people were afraid their clothes would be blown away. "According to the lake administration's rules, if the wind power is stronger than Grade 4, all activities must be stopped. Now it is obviously much stronger than that," said Huang Fengxiang, an official from the Beijing Water Authority, at the event.

The race was delayed, but eventually took place. Kirk Portas, a Yale University student currently studying here, could not wait for it to begin, "In America, we always do such activities according to a schedule, even if it's raining. I'm ready for a fight," he said.

A team from each of the universities and two Chinese companies competed in the race.

Because they were short of participants, Yale and Oxford teamed up to fill a Dragon Boat that could seat 12 people. They beat Harvard by 18 seconds in the 500-meter race, and got third place overall. An advertisement company took the championship, while Cambridge became the winner among the four universities as overall runner-up.

The audience and the players did not care as much about the result as they did cheering on their team. It was the first time Jason Misium of the Harvard Team raced a Dragon Boat, although he has canoed. "The Chinese boat is harder for me to keep my balance on," said Misium, a math teacher at a Beijing school. "It is the first time I met many of my schoolfellows here," he added.

The CBD International Aquatic Sports Club, the event organizer, breathed a sigh of relief after the race ended without incident and everyone had a good time despite the bad weather. "We bought the boats in Hangzhou and transported them here," said Yang Shihong, the club's manager. He said the lifeguards on the yachts that accompanied the boats were all A-rated, the highest grade of all.

The Gaobeidian Lake was blocked by piles of trash and sewage just a decade ago. But after years of restoration, it has become a source of water for the city and has become an ideal place for Dragon Boat competitions.



Participants were confident about their boating skills. Photo by Zheng Lu

Event

Booktalk: In Bed With George "Chinese" Morrison

Bestselling Australian writer and translator Linda Jaivin, will discuss her forthcoming novel, *A Most Immoral Woman*, set in China and Japan in 1904. In the book, she gets down, dirty and fictional with one of the most legendary China correspondents of all time – George Morrison.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 5, 7:30 pm

Cost: 20 yuan (members), 30 yuan (non-members)

Tel: 6586 9507

Talk: Current Land Policy and Law Problems in China

Liu Haibo, a researcher from the Chinese Academy of Social Science's Law Institute and author of many books on China's land policy and law, will talk about the country's land policy and problems faced during the process of reform.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 5, 7:30

–9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am – 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; on weekends, rerouted to a mobile phone)

Tibetan Textiles: Reviving Traditional Skills

Chris Buckley, working together with the Tibet Artisan Initiative in Lhasa, has spent the past three years working to recover some of Tibet's traditional natural dyeing methods. He will talk about Tibet's rich history of textile manufacture as well as textile uses. He will also discuss the sometimes unexpected environmental and social issues related to dye choice and textile manufacture in the Lhasa area.

Where: Embassy of Kuwait, 23 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 6, 7:30 pm

(By He Jianwei)

Nanluoguxiang festival brings back Old Beijing

By Zheng Lu

"Hey, the tofu is ready! Hot and tasty, come and have a try!" yelled 78-year-old Cui Yanmin. But there was no tofu or tofu shop, just an old man standing in the lane, hawking memories of old days.

The annual three-day Creation Market and Hutong Cultural Festival brought people to Nanluoguxiang last weekend. The hutongs were packed with locals and foreigners, youngsters and the elderly.

Even though the market was as popular as it used to be, customers were not as impulsive. "I did not plan to buy anything. I just want to look around and enjoy the festival," said a visitor from Britain who now lives in Beijing.

A young designer from Guangzhou who was invited to sell her clothes said business was not as good as in other cities. She sold couple T-shirts for 100 yuan a pair – half of the original price, yet she only made two sales on the last day.

The Hutong Cultural Festival was another matter. The buskers, who performed traditional Beijing folk songs while selling trinkets, stole the show.

"Buns just out of the steamer!" Cui Yanmin yelled. "I just imitate how the shopkeepers used to hawk their goods when I was a child," he said, adding that young people should not forget the traditions of Old Beijing.

"The stories are all inside me. If I have no successor, then everything will end at my grave," said Cui, a volunteer at the culture festival. He was gratified that during the festival people crowded around him and asked about what he was saying.

Photo by Zheng Lu



Cui Yanmin, a 78-year-old Beijinger said the festival encouraged him to present what he knew about Old Beijing.

The Oscars of interior design reaches China

By Gan Tian

The Andrew Martin International Interior Designer of the Year Award, established in 1996, finally reached Chinese shores. Dubbed the "Oscars of interior design," the award has gained global recognition.

One of the award's founders, Martin Waller, came to Beijing to launch the award with a party at Boloni Space on Wednesday evening. Waller, who has done the set design for such James Bond films as *A View to a Kill* and *The Living Daylights*, has signed an agreement with a local counterpart to promote the award in China.

"China is seeing some of the world's most spectacular real estate projects. It is attracting great designers. It's essential for the award to be here," he said.

Martin said interior design is a complex job, but good design should make people feel comfortable. "Not just comfortable in the sense of soft cushions, but in a relaxed and comfortable state of mind," he said. "It involves a close empathy with the



The show room at Boloni Space

Photo provided by The Awards

client. It's not just about being creative. It's about listening to the clients and translating the clients' ideas."

On designing movie sets, he said the job has its ups and downs. "Film sets are always done in a huge rush. You build amazing things for just a few seconds of screen time and then tear them down. It's exciting and depressing. But you do get to meet Bond girls," he said jokingly.

Products designed by Martin are on exhibit in Beijing for a month. They will then go on a tour of Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Nanjing.

Time for tenants to make a move



Apartment rentals have dropped by 500-1,000 yuan per month.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

With the economy slowing down, many foreigners leaving town after the Olympics and no sign of a loosening up of visa policies, the housing rental market now offers expats more options at a lower price.

The price is A-okay

Venita Ding, a Parisian working at a consulting firm in Guomao, was charged 6,000 yuan a month for a tiny studio in Season's Park's third phase project. Ding's friends all thought such a price outrageous for a 35-square-meter apartment.

But her landlord, who owns another two or three apartments in the building, refused to negotiate. She moved in before the Games were held. Last week, a friend of hers got a similar apartment for only 3,500 yuan per month.

A real estate agent surnamed Chen, whose business mainly covers property around the Work-

ers' Stadium, said 3,500 yuan a month was a good deal as most apartment rentals have dropped by 500-1,000 yuan.

A one-bedroom apartment in Xinfucun, which used to go for 4,800 yuan, is now only 4,000 yuan per month, Chen said. But she denied that more apartments were becoming available in the market. "Some landlords do not live in this area and find it troublesome to commute ... Most landlords do not care even if their apartments are empty," Chen said.

According to 515j, a local real estate agent, now is a good time for tenants looking for better housing. "Apartment owners who have not been able to rent out their place are desperate, and lowering rent is the first move," a staff member from the company said.

Preparation is key

"When you're looking for a new apartment, you need

enough time check out places," said Joanna Yu, a 35-year-old reporter from Taiwan.

Yu, who moved to Beijing a few years ago, is interested in some old government-owned property in the Sanlitun area. "Many foreigners like me do not like new buildings because they do not have a soul. We prefer old apartments with history."

But the reality in Beijing is that if you want to live in a cozy hutong home, you will either need to spend millions to renovate it or spend several thousand US dollars per month to rent one that has been prettied up. So government-owned buildings with high ceilings and built according to Russian architecture are the next best choice.

"I started to look around three or four months ago, visiting many places, meeting many landlords, and finally found a place that I really wanted to

move into," Yu said.

Good landlords

Some expats have experienced dealing with horrible landlords. There are landlords who insist on having a key to their tenant's apartment, while some never show up to fix broken heating or showers.

Yu, who has lived in a number of countries, said the best landlords tend to be people with a decent job and a good education, like professors or school teachers.

Claiming a receipt

There are foreigners whose companies shoulder their rent, but require them to hand in a receipt. To get this, a tenant should bring his or her lease, indicating the rent per month and the person's passport number, to the community committee's office. To get a receipt, the office will ask the tenant to pay a rental tax, which is 5 percent of the amount of the rent.

Air China launches new flights services

Air China begins its 2008-2009 Winter-Spring flight schedule this week, and passengers can now check in for their flights and confirm their seats 24 hours ahead of departure, either online or by phone.

They can change seats or cancel booked flights one and a half hours before departure by calling 4008 100 999. The hotline number has agents available to take calls after 8 am every day.

In its new flight schedule, Air China has started flights to additional domestic and international destinations such as Linyi, Shandong Province; Samarqand in Uzbekistan and Luanda in Angola.

The airline has also adjusted the schedule of some of its traditional flights. It added one more flight every week between Beijing and Bangkok, while it changed its Beijing-Dubai-Athens to Beijing-Paris-Athens and its Beijing-Karachi-Kuwait flight to Beijing-Urumqi-Karachi.

(By Zhao Hongyi)

Lunch delivery is the new king

By Annie Wei

As winter draws near, many people working in the CBD prefer lunch delivered to their office over dining out and having to brave the cold weather.

Because lunchtime business has picked up, many restaurants are short-handed and so have made adjustments in their delivery schedule. They now require customers to order meals an hour ahead or some of these establishments will not deliver from 12-2 pm. A number of these restaurants have even shrunk their delivery routes to cope with demand.

Ajisen Noodle

Where: A-1 floor, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5869 6404

Delivery hours: before 11 am; no delivery from 12-2 pm

Yonghe Dawang

Where: Building 3, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8844 0088

Delivery hours: order one hour in advance



Food delivery service makes life easier in winter.

CFP Photo

Zhen Kungfu Chinese restaurant

Where: 1 floor, Building A, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5869 6918

Delivery hours: order one hour in advance with a minimum order of 40 yuan

Viva Curry

Where: 1 floor, Jinghui Dasha, 2 Dongsanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6567 6761

Delivery hours: 9:30-11 am with a minimum order of 16 yuan

Yuxiang Renjia Sichuan restaurant

Where: Sairui Shangwu Lou, 2 Dongsanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6568 1556

Delivery hours: 10-11:30 am with a minimum order of 100 yuan

Yoshinoya restaurant

Where: 1 floor, Building B, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8580 3132

Delivery hours: order one hour in advance

Master Kang Beef Noodle

Where: 2 floor, Jinghui Dasha, 2 Dongsanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6567 5128

Delivery hours: 10 am - 12 pm with a minimum order of 30 yuan

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyng@ynet.com

I'm heading home to Europe soon and want to buy tea as a gift for family and friends. With a wide variety of Chinese tea, however, I do not know which ones make a good present. Any suggestions?

If you are shopping for tea as a present, you cannot go wrong by going to Maliandao, Beijing's biggest and most famous tea street. But if you only want to buy one or two small boxes, just find a local tea shop in your neighborhood, like Zhang Yi Yuan. Famous Chinese teas include Long Jing, Tao Jian and Mao Qiu. Because of high demand, a lot of places sell fakes, so be careful. A Chinese friend who likes tea will be able to help you buy high quality tea that will not burn a hole through your pocket.

Maliandao Tea City

Where: 14 Maliandao, Xuanwu District

Where can I get a dog in Beijing?

To adopt a dog that needs a home, try the Web site animalschina.org.

Where can I get those gel or padded strips you stick into women's shoes to prevent blisters around the ankles?

A brand named Scholl can be found in many supermarkets inside malls like Pacific Century Place, Oriental Plaza and Shin Kong Plaza. You can also find cheaper versions at Watson's stores around town.

I wonder what it's like to stay with a Chinese family, to eat, live and hang around together. Is it a good opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture? And where can I find a nice Chinese family who would accept a foreigner to live with them?

There are many different opinions about home-staying in a Chinese family. Some think it a good way to be exposed to Chinese culture while some dislike the limited privacy. However, it all depends on what kind of Chinese family you bump into. For a well-educated family with a spacious apartment, one will find it easier to communicate and live with the host; really local families might be more challenging.

What is the maximum amount of yuan or foreign currency I can carry into China?

For both inbound and outbound passengers, the maximum is 20,000 yuan cash, or any other foreign currencies equivalent to US \$5,000.

(By Wei Ying)

Cheating death for

Mariss Jansons and Royal Concertgebouw hold first Beijing show

By He Jianwei

"If I had a choice, I would die in the theater," Mariss Jansons, 65, one of the world's most famous Latvian conductors, said. For Jansons, every performance finished is a performance stolen from God. During a performance in Oslo, Norway, in April 1996, Jansons nearly died of a heart attack while conducting the final pages of La Boheme.

Jansons and his orchestra Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (RCO) will perform in the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) on November 4 and 5. During the following weeks, Amsterdam Nieuw Ensemble and the Orchestra of the 18th Century, both from the Netherlands, will perform on November 6 and 7, and November 13 and 14, respectively.



Mariss Jansons



Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Photos provided by National Center for Performing Arts

music

now



Programs

On November 4

Johannes Brahms:

Symphony No 3 in F major, opus 90

Modest Mussorgsky:

Pictures at an Exhibition (Orchestrations by Maurice Ravel)

On November 5

Antonin Dvorak:

Symphony No 8 in G major, opus 88

Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No 4 in A major, opus 90, "Italian"

Maurice Ravel:

La Valse

Where: National Center for Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

Admission: 280-1,380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Each concert in Jansons' retirement is one stolen from God.

At home on the stage

Born in Riga, Latvia in 1943, Jansons is the son of Latvian conductor Arvid Jansons. His mother, the singer Iraida Jansons, was a Jew. She gave birth to him in hiding in Riga, after her father and brother were killed in the Riga ghetto.

"Although my father was a conductor, he did not teach me how to conduct. I first studied violin with my father," Jansons said.

Jansons grew up in the theater and was influenced by his father. "I listened to his rehearsals and concerts. When I was a little boy, I knew what the life of a conductor was like and the repertoire he conducted. His conducting was a part of my life," he said.

And that life was in the theater, a home in which he knew every door and every room. "I had opportunity to listen to operas and concerts, and to see ballet. I was not an audience member anymore. I lived there. Growing up there made the theater a part of my spirit," he said.

His father and his life in the theater were his classes before he went to music school. When he was 13, he entered the Leningrad Conservatory in Russia, where he studied piano and conducting, although his father urged him to continue violin.

His father "directed me on my profession and all his suggestions helped me to become a young conductor," he said.

International identity

Jansons considers himself a global citizen. Traveling is his favorite past time, whether it is for study, conducting or amusement. "I have visited almost every country and have friends from every corner of the world," he said.

In 1969, Jansons continued his training in Vienna with Hans Swarowsky (1899-1975), celebrated as both a conductor and as a teacher, and in Salzburg with Herbert von Karajan (1908-1989), an Austrian orchestra and opera conductor.

Two years later, he was a prizewinner at the International Herbert von Karajan Foundation Competition in Berlin.

"The experiences in Latvia, Russia and Austria helped me connect Russian culture with Western culture. I do not limit my eyesight to one country, but I try to define my identity as an international one," he said.

Leading the world's orchestras

Jansons has become chief conductor or guest conductor of orchestras in Russia, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and the US.

His conducting career began in 1973, when the director of the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, formerly the Leningrad Philharmonic, invited Jansons to assist him as associate conductor.

During Jansons' tenure, he conducted the orchestra on many of its successful tours to Europe, America and Japan.

In 1979, he was appointed music director of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he performed, recorded and toured extensively. In 1992, he was named principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and worked as a guest conductor with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Jansons became the music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1997. "I worked in Russia, so I knew the music system there. I also worked in Norway and England, so I knew other music systems in Europe. I went to the US, because I wanted to know what music system this country had. This is why I worked with the Pittsburgh Symphony," he said.

His relationship with the Pittsburgh Symphony has been hailed as one of the most successful partnerships in the modern orchestral world. During his tenure as director, he led the Pittsburgh Symphony at Carnegie Hall each season and on tours of Japan, South America, the Far East and Europe.

As he cooperated with different orchestras, Jansons summed up the differences among them. "In Europe, everyone cares about style and sound. In America, they care about brilliant affection. Russians care about emotional expression, temperament and feelings," he said.

In 1996, he went into cardiac arrest at the podium during the closing bars of *La Boheme*. Further heart attacks in an Oslo hospital almost finished him off. A defibrillator was implanted in his chest to shock his heart back into action when next it stops.

At the start of the 2003-2004 season, he began his tenure as chief conductor of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. He started his tenure as the sixth chief conductor of the RCO, the most respected symphony orchestra in the Netherlands, in 2004.

Jansons said music is the secret to staying passionate. "I hope the important moment in my life in the future will be conducting. I'm lucky that I received a wonderful education. My education helped me establish myself not only in music, but also as a human being," he said.

He said the most important thing for a performer is to think about how to improve his ability, not how to be famous. "If you are professional, everything will come to you," he said.

Adventures in the world of Chinese food

By Jin Zhu

What would you think if someone told you sushi is not a Japanese creation? Jennifer 8. Lee, a *New York Times* reporter, likened the moment of being told fortune cookies were not Chinese to "learning there was no Santa Claus."

The discovery began an obsession. Lee had to know where the cookies came from and how they ended up on American Chinese menus.

"Altogether there are about 43,000 Chinese restaurants in the US, which has exceeded the summation of McDonald's, Burger King and KFC. There is almost no dayoff in Chinese restaurants," Lee said.

One of her great assignments was to travel around the world and search out the best Chinese restaurant. Lee visited London, Paris, Mauritius and Sydney. In *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles* (320pp, Warner Books, US \$24.99), she tells through her various adventures why Chinese food is so popular around the world. "A driving force behind Chinese cooking is the desire to adapt and incorporate indigenous ingredients while utilizing Chinese cooking techniques."

The most wonderful chapters are devoted, of course, to the history of the fortune

cookie. Lee said the fortune cookie was created by Japanese Americans and was absorbed by American Chinese after World War II.

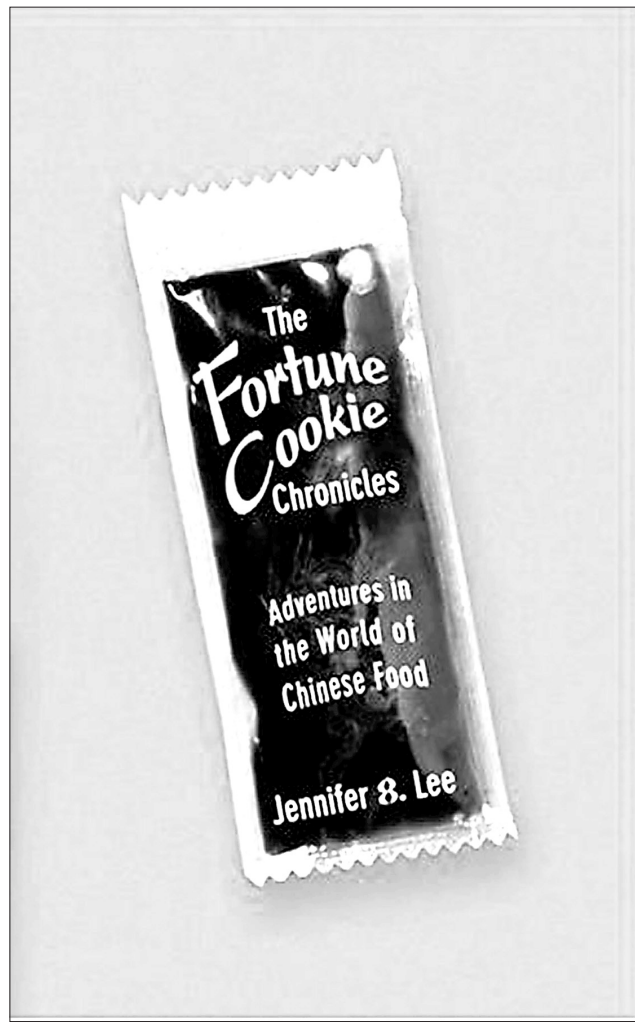
She even went to rural Hunan chasing down the origins of General Tso's chicken, the most popular "Chinese" dish in the US, only to find the locals had never heard of it.

Her further research draws a big picture of how American tastes altered Chinese food and the complex cuisine of mixed cultures.

"As Americans adapt to new flavors, we simultaneously impose our own lustiness on every cuisine we touch. The portions get bigger, the meat-to-vegetable ratio is reversed. Everything must be breaded, fried and sauced beyond recognition," she said.

The Chinese food served at US restaurants is an entirely different animal than what one can find on the streets of Beijing. As Lee put it, "It is American: it just looks Chinese."

From the American point of view, dining out for Chinese food was an innovation that had no conflict with the existing culture and tradition. The story of Chinese food being absorbed into America is, to some extent, the story of the country itself.



Mo Yan wins inaugural Chinese Newman

By Zhang Dongya

"Those not immersed in rural Chinese life will not understand my novel. The juries of the Newman Prize saw that value in this book," Mo Yan, one of the most renowned Chinese novelists said, after he and his novel *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* (552pp, Arcade Publishing, US \$19.77) won the first Newman Prize this month.

Mo was chosen from seven nominees, including Jin Yong and Wang Anyi, by seven distinguished literary experts home and abroad including Sinologist Howard Goldblatt and Peking University's Professor Zhang Yiwu.

His latest and winning novel *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* (Shengsi Pilao) was published in 2006 in Chinese and translated into English this year. The book is considered Mo's best so far.

Life and Death narrates the tragic absurdities of the second half of the last century. "Characterized as 'a wildly visionary and creative novel' (New York Times), it puts a human face on the revolution and is replete with the dark humor, metafictional insertions and the fantasies that Mo Yan's readers have come to expect and enjoy,"

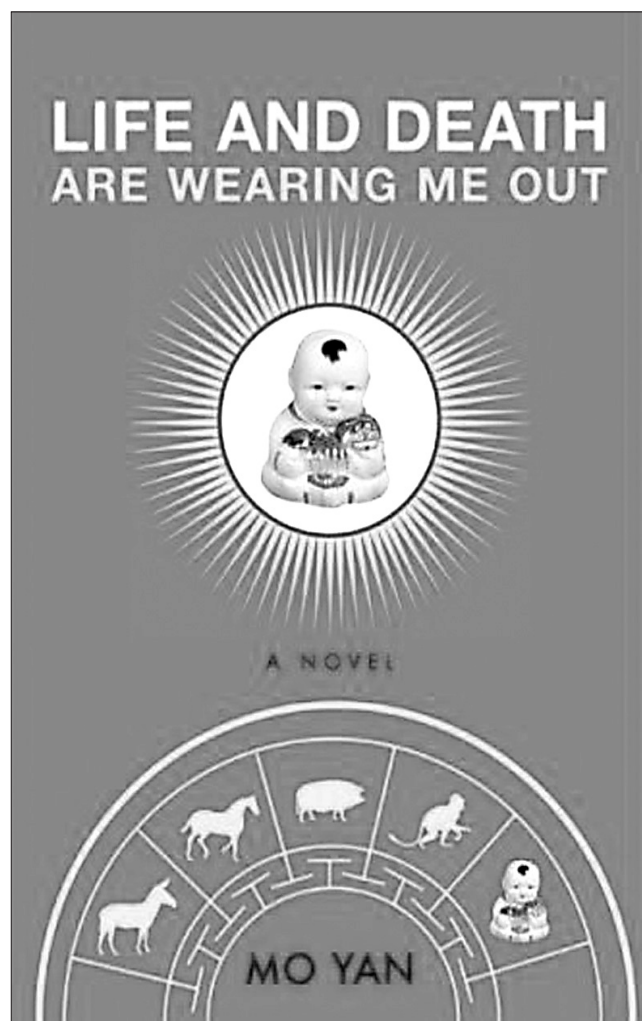
Goldblatt said in his nomination statement.

Most of his books have been translated into other languages, including English, French and Japanese.

Mo gave a lecture titled "Anxiety of Influence" after he was awarded the prize. He said it caused him anxiety to be influenced by others, especially by Western writers. He said it was his lack of self-confidence, and he would work on new way to learn from Western writers that does not over-emphasize nationality.

As the representative of the "Country Novelist" genre, Mo has been writing vibrant stories about rural life the last 20 years. He said his next book will have new variations on that theme.

The Newman Prize for Chinese Literature is awarded biennially in recognition of outstanding achievement in prose or poetry that captures the human condition and is sponsored by the University of Oklahoma's Institute for US-China Issues. As the first major US award for Chinese literature, it is expected to help increase American awareness of the tremendous diversity and humanist spirit of contemporary Chinese literature.



Timezone 8 booklisting

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three top-selling design books for *Beijing Today* readers.

In Production Mode: Contemporary Art in China, CCAA 2008



By Pauline J. Yao, 276pp, Timezone 8, US \$50

Accompanying the sixth annual Contemporary Chinese Art Awards exhibition opening in fall 2008, this catalog offers images and text on works by Liu Wei, Tseng Yu-Chin and Ai Weiwei. The catalog is bundled with a monograph by Pauline J. Yao, recipient of the new Chinese Contemporary Art Awards for independent art criticism.

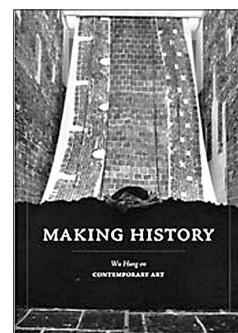
Ian Teh – Undercurrents



By Ian Teh, 196pp, Timezone8, US \$45

Ian Teh, a Malaysian-born, Chinese British photographer, practices photography as an elegant, but adaptable explorer, a curious flaneur searching China for his identity and roots. His works, mostly documentary, are all color photographs. For years, he has explored unrest and on the paradoxes of a world that he seeks to understand.

Making History: Wu Hung on Contemporary Art



By Wu Hung, 368pp, US\$50, Timezone8

Making History is a collection of Wu Hung's most provocative and insightful essays, with detailed analysis of the cultural origins, precedents, influences and aspirations of the most exciting contemporary artists practicing today. As a curator and historian, Wu writes from a unique perspective as both an observer and a participant in today's art culture.

(By He Jianwei)

Independent labels find fashion niche



Zhang Na

By Wang Yu

Young people love new literature, new music, new art and new clothes. But outfits by the top labels are expensive, and their Chinese offerings are rarely in step with international trends. Unique T-shirts with nice patterns can be found at the iMart, but the cheap fabric and careless cutting make them impractical for daily wear.

But things are changing.

Independent clothing designers are playing a big role in the country's sub-fashion industry and offer a new choice for the fashion inclined but funding deprived. These designer's works are fresh, energetic, brave and in tune with customer demand.

Zhang Na, a Beijinger in Shanghai started her label (Na)too in 2007. She said the concept of the label was to inspire happiness through good design. Zhang graduated from the fashion design department of the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts and trained at MOD'ART International in France. "I think fashion is divided by regionality. People's style of dress differs from Beijing to Shanghai, let alone between different countries. It took some time for me to reconnect with the local fashion environment when I came back," Zhang said.

(Na)too focuses on exploring the connection between people, their dress and their environment, Zhang said. She said the inspiration for her design is to effectively combine personal emotions with fashion, instead of via complicated structure. "My recent works are connected with my illustrations, augmented with my own emotion. But I think a good designer won't force his audience to accept an idea but help them to change their surroundings to find real happiness," she said.

Like many other independent designers, Zhang has worked for other design studios to learn how the industry works. "From studio to factory, every part must be well connected and the fine details are not found in textbooks," Zhang said.

Zhe Zi, the designer of Xiamen-based Sankuanz, may be an exception. His major in college was graphic design, and his first boss was himself. "Music has a great influence on my works and Sankuanz's autumn/winter issue is inspired by Joy Division," Zhe said.

His products are sold in several major cities. The shy designer does not think his lack of experience is a problem. "Everyone in my team does his own job well, and they can help me a lot in manufacturing," he said.

Distribution channels are where many designers hit a wall. They do not have the money or influence to penetrate mainstream stores, and a good agent is essential. In Joy City at Xidan, Arrtco is a store which offers a composite marketplace for independent labels.

"Agents like Arrtco know what independent labels need and have a good connection with their designers. But a label should still have its own distribution channel," Zhang said. Lack of a channel can be a financing nightmare and put the label out of touch with its customers, Zhang said. (Na)too's first direct store will open November in Shanghai.

Many designers choose to set up their studios in southern China due to abundant manufacture resources. "Beijing is the cultural center and has great human resources and a brilliant design environment, but the factories willing to accept small orders of high quality products are none to be found," Zhang said.

"Dealing with the factories is not a problem here in Xiamen, as we have some longtime collaborators. Most of our trouble happens during design," Zhe said.

Besides these independent designers, some new brands have been started by factories which were once contracted by brands like Armani, Dior and Zara. But the young designers' works are more personal and impressive. They absorb music, press and literature into their designs for a style all their own.

"This is the best time for independent designers to realize their dreams. A stable and mature consumer group is emerging and asking for fresh ideas. That gives us a good opportunity," Zhang said.

(Na)too's explanation of spring
Photos provided by Zhang Na

Sankuanz's dark suit was
inspired by post-punk music.
Photo provided by Zhe Zi



(Na)too's "whistle"
eco-bag



Get a golden passport and other treats

By Gan Tian

Good news to avid shoppers: More shops have opened for business at The Village at Sanlitun, a brand new shopping complex on the bar street. *Beijing Today* takes a stroll around The Village to check out the latest bargains, promotions and services on offer.

GetaGoldenPassport

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia ... if you need a break from the daily grind and want to recharge your batteries by visiting beautiful Asian destinations, then "Shop, Chop and Hop around Asia" at The Village. Get a chance to win a trip for two, including two nights' accommodation, at a destination of your choice courtesy of Asia Miles, which is offering shoppers 150,000 Asia Miles for redemption.

Spend at least 200 yuan at any of the shops at The Village to get

a Golden Passport and a chop that shows "you have started traveling." With every purchase of 200 yuan, you collect another chop.

Once you have five chops and have shopped on at least two floors, you will receive a gift from one of the brands at The Village. Collect 10 chops for a Boarding Pass, your ticket to the Golden Passport Lucky Draw, where you can get a chance to win 150,000 Asia Miles. Make sure you get a chop from all floors because this is needed to qualify for the Boarding Pass.

The Lucky Draw also gives you a chance to get two nights' free stay at The Opposite House, the hippest luxury boutique hotel in the city. The Opposite House package also includes a Maserati pick-up and dinner for two at Sureno, where you will experience Mediterranean fine dining.

Shop, Chop and Hop around Asia

Where: The Information Counter, Lower Ground floor, The Village at Sanlitun, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 8 pm
Tel: 6417 6110



Megabox Cinema has eight theaters.

The cheapest cinema downtown

Megabox Cinema, which has 1,700 seats across eight theaters, may just be the cheapest movie-house downtown.

Get a membership card for 20 yuan and begin your journey through cinema. With your membership, tickets that are usually 50-70 yuan are half-price from Monday to Thursday. From Friday to Sunday, the biggest business days of the week, you still get a 15-yuan discount.

If you have a China Merchants Bank credit card, buy one ticket and get one free - no matter when you go. If your credit card is from Bank of Beijing, you get 50 percent off tickets any time.

Megabox Cinema

Where: S4-11, The Village at Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Open: 9 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6417 6118

Up your creative skills

The Apple Store on Sanlitun has been offering its One-to-One Service since it opened at the end of July. The service has become so hot that if you have not signed up, you better do so quickly or you will find yourself at the end of a long queue!

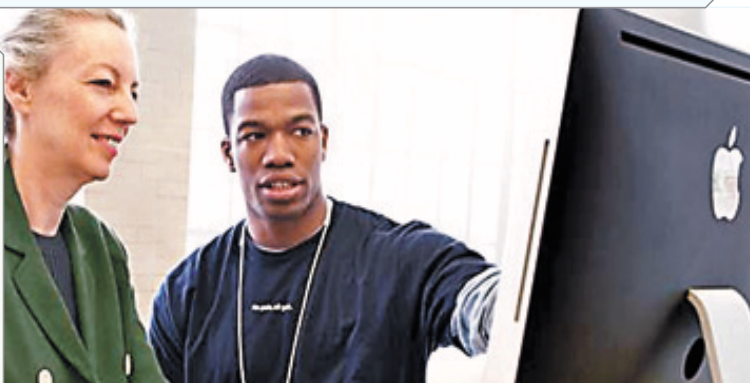
The 798-yuan service gets members access to a year of weekly, personalized tutorial sessions with one of Apple's star team of Creatives. Creatives are veterans of the music and film industries, television and photography experts, Web masters and composers who have extensive experience in their field and a passion for teaching.

One-to-One members can choose to learn more about getting started with a Mac or iPod, advance their moviemaking, digital photography and podcasting skills, build a Web site or tailor their training sessions to answer specific questions or get help with a personal project. No matter what kind of problem, the Creatives will help you solve them. Book a course for 9 am to avoid large, noisy crowds.

One-to-One can also be given as a gift and can be used at any of Apple's 204 retail stores worldwide. Now that the exchange rate between the Chinese yuan and US dollar is favorable, why not get a membership here to use in the US?

One-to-one Service

Where: Apple Retail Store, S6-10, 20, The Village at Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Open: 9 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6419 8900



Apple's One-to-one Service in Sanlitun



North part of The Village at Sanlitun

Photos provided by The Village at Sanlitun

Dining treat ... or treat

By Gan Tian

What plans do you have for Halloween night? When you are not out dressing up as a scary creature, you can check out these restaurants offering special Halloween dinners – or you can do both at once!

Cubana set meal

A-Che Bar & Restaurant, reminiscent of an old Havana cafe with its colonial balconies and mementos of Che Guevara, has a four-course set dinner prepared for Halloween night.

At 128 yuan for the meal, first comes the Pumpkin with Coconut Soup to whet the appetite. This is followed by the Eggplant Cake with Arugula Salad for your dose of greens.

Diners can then choose from the following main dish: Grilled Lamb Chop and Gratin with Pesto and Red Wine Sauce, Beef Tenderloin with Potato Cake and Black Pepper Sauce or Grilled Salmon with Olive Salad and Balsamic Cilantro Sauce. The last one is highly recommended for its Olive Salad, but those who prefer strong flavors can instead go for the Beef Tenderloin.

For dessert, customers get Souffle de Chocolate or Flamed bananas with Ice Cream.

Children also get a set meal and candy packs for 30 yuan. The meal has spaghetti, French fries, ice cream and soft drinks or juice.

A-Che Bar & Restaurant

Where: 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – midnight

Tel: 6417 2201



2.



1.

Photos provided by A-Che Bar & Restaurant

1. A-Che Bar & Restaurant is decorated like a South American cafe.
2. Grilled Salmon in A-Che Bar & Restaurant
3. Blue Bud Cafe's special doorface
4. Traktirr Pushkin's pumpkin cakes



Battlefield between angels and demons

By Milo Lee

Some consider cafes a refuge from the pressures of modern life. With their soothing background music, dim lighting and customers lazily sipping coffee, time seems to stand still at cafes. It is hard to imagine a raucous Halloween party at a coffee shop, but Blue Bud Cafe is up to the challenge with a blood-lusting party Friday night.

English black and herbal tea are the pride and joy of Blue Bud. Its cappuccinos and lattes are also popular. The cafe's added attractions, according to its owner Ken Chang, are the various activities it holds such as photo exhibits and film screenings.

Normally decorated in a homey atmosphere, Blue Bud will turn into a battlefield between angels

and demons on Halloween night. There will be interactive games, exciting prizes and the screening of a horror movie.

No Halloween party is complete without a costume, but since Friday is a workday, the cafe will let people in as they are. Tickets are 50 yuan, which includes snacks and a glass of red wine. Latecomers will be punished with an extra 10 yuan on top of the normal ticket price.

On Halloween night, the cafe will serve its first glass of red wine since it opened in May.

Blue Bud Cafe

Where: Blue Bud Cafe, Guowang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District

When: Friday 8-11:55 pm

Tel: 8404 5129



4.

Pumpkin cakes Russian style

Traktirr Pushkin, a Russian restaurant on Gujie, the city's famous snack street, will turn into a castle on Halloween night.

It will serve Pumpkin cakes at a discount, specially prepared by its chef. These cakes, which contain vanilla, nutmeg and cinnamon, are a treat not to be missed!

Traktirr has also prepared Halloween gifts for its patrons.

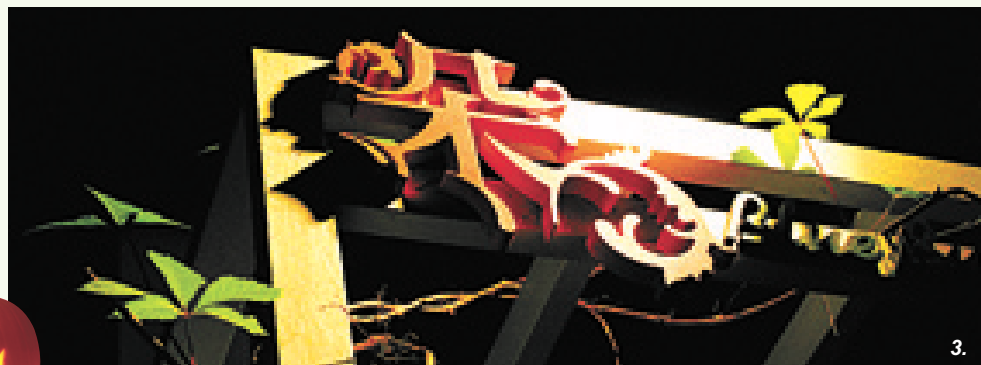
Traktirr Pushkin

Where: 5-15 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8407 8158

CFP Photo



3.

Photo provided by Blue Bud Cafe



Upcoming

Drama

Giovanni Vitate Piano Recital

Who: Giovanni Vitate

Where: Beijing University Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian district

When: November 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

5 Friday, October 31

Exhibition

Beijing Shortcuts

Barbara Piatti is a painter whose works talk about people she has encountered. This exhibition is a diary of her insatiable curiosity about the world around her.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 5, daily except Monday 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

Impossible is Nothing - Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition

Where: Room A, Long March Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday 11 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 7107, 6431 7799

Movie

U

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Raining Cats and Frogs

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

Tango Halloween Costume Party

Come in your Halloween costume and get in for free.

Where: Tango, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6428 2288

Spooked

Fresh off last year's successful screening despite the rain, Spooked is back this Halloween at the same venue with even better sound and lighting.

Where: Ku-18, Originality Square, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 70-100 yuan

Tel: 138 1034 7555

Party from noon to night

12-hour celebration of Goethe-Institut Peking's 20th anniversary

By He Jianwei

The Goethe-Institut Peking, which has played a key role in Sino-German relations the past two decades, celebrates its 20th anniversary tomorrow. Established on November 1, 1988, the Goethe-Institut in China has witnessed big changes in the country's cultural communication since the reform and opening up policy took effect in the late-70s.

The institute's anniversary will be marked by Goethe Night, a 12-hour party, which will showcase music, drama, literature, movies, exhibitions and games. Deine Lakaien, a Darkwave band from Germany, will perform in Beijing for the first time at the event. The band comprises of vocalist Alexander Veljanov and the classically trained composer, pianist and drummer Ernst Horn.

Also performing is Manuel Gottsching, the leader Ash Ra Tempel or Ashra, one of Germany's most notable electronic music groups of

the 1970s and 1980s. Gottsching will be playing music from his 1981 album *E2-E4*, which was influential in the development of house music.

Aside from German musicians, Chinese rock stars, such as Cui Jian and New Pants will also be present.

Among the German films to be shown is *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, a piece exploring the interrelated themes of love, life and power. Adapted from Alfred Döblin's 1929 novel and directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the film is representative of New German Cinema work.

The Goethe-Institut, which is present in 82 countries and has been in existence for over 50 years, promotes the study of German abroad and encourages international cultural exchange. The institute also fosters knowledge about Germany by providing information on its culture, society and politics.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art and 798 Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 1, 2 pm - 2 am the next day

Admission: Free

6 Saturday, November 1

Exhibition
Tale of a Lotus
Lover - Joint
Exhibition

The lotus is an important symbol in traditional Chinese art. In this exhibit, contemporary artists from different age groups have been invited to give their interpretation of the flower through oil, watercolor and wash. A must-see for lotus lovers.

Where: Beijing Dandeli Culture & Arts Limited Company, Image Base Beijing, 3 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6770 8966

Huang He Solo Exhibition

Where: Pan Wei Gallery, East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 18, daily except Monday 9 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 5093

Return to Lhasa

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen District

When: Until November 2, daily 11 am - 6 pm,

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

City Action

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 28, daily 10:30 am - 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122, 139 1116 6261

Nightlife

The Verse - Funky Town Mini Concert

Remember to put on your dancing shoes and funk to the beat.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard (former site of the Duan Qirui Government), 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 10-50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711



7 Sunday, November 2

Exhibition
High-pressure
Zone -
Li Yimo Solo
Exhibition

Where:

The First Sound Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 24, daily except Monday 9 am - 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9888

Supreme Purity - Wu Qiang Solo Exhibition

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 14, daily 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

China - Edward Burtynsky Solo Exhibition

How industrialization has

transformed nature is a predominant theme in Edward Burtynsky's works. From 2002 to 2005, the photographer explored China's various industrial complexes and gave viewers a glimpse into the vast social and economic transformation the country was undergoing. In his first exhibition, the gallery presents a wide selection of his works.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 10, daily 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9263

Nightlife

Reggae Sunday

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Houhai Xiyan, Xicheng District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

Stage in December

Concert

Wu Muye Piano Recital

Who: Wu Muye

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Music from Oscar-winning Films

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Batko Delorko Piano Concert

Who: Batko Delorko

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Elaine Paige's Music

Who: Elaine Paige

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tiananmen Square), Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,500 yuan

Tel: 5165 6039

Music by the Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Who: Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 3-4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Flamenco Dance Sevilla

Who: Maria Pages Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 5-6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Anne Sofie Von Otter Concert

Who: Anne Sofie Von Otter

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Burning Steps

Who: Song and Dance Troupe of the People's Liberation Army's General Political Department

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 1-2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Stars

Who: Guangzhou Song and Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 9, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

The Canterville Ghost

Who: TNT Theater Britain

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 48 Hepingli Dajie, Xicheng District

When: December 12-14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 5833 1218

(By Li Jing)

Aches, pains and the economy

By Gan Tian

This year's global economic crisis has caused a spike in oil prices, which in turn drove up food, spread inflation and caused the collapse of several large investment and commercial banks. The crisis will likely make emotional health deteriorate and boost the suicide rate as people struggle to cope with poverty and unemployment, the World Health Organization warned at the beginning of this month.

An unknown stomachache

Zhang Hongxue, 50, has no bad habits. He does not smoke or drink, and rarely eats oily or fried foods. However, Zhang has had a stomachache since May.

He went to the hospital, but all tests showed his heart and stomach working normally. After being bounced around many departments, Zhang met Sun Yan, a doctor in the Third Hospital of Beijing University, who referred him to a psychologist.

Zhang was diagnosed as having "medium-anxiety" by the psychologist, who attributed his worries to Zhang's 100,000-yuan investment in the failing stock market. His loss in appetite and stomach pains coincided with when the market began of its plunge.

Millions of people have depression and bipolar disorders, and the current market meltdown can exacerbate feelings of despair among people vulnerable to these and other emotional disorders, Sun said.

"People are anxious, and they are more anxious if they are nearer retirement age," Linda Rosenberg, president of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, in Washington, said.

Bankrupt murderer

China.com reported that an Indian broker in Mumbai killed his pregnant wife and then committed suicide last week. The Web site said it was India's fourth suicide touched off by the financial crisis in the last 10 days.

A commentary in the *Beijing Youth Daily* said the crisis has cost many people their jobs and emptied their accounts. Many people are depressed and desperate, and the least stable turn to murder or suicide for an escape.

Symptoms

Ji Chengjun, head of the Out Patient Department at Beijing Huilongguan Hospital, has prepared a list of several warning signs to help identify if you or someone else has been psychologically affected by the world's economic woes.

- Anxious or weary feeling
- Unwilling to talk
- Hear strange noises
- Unable to sleep
- Stomach ache
- Excessive sweating
- Irritable
- Sense of having been wrong

Ways out of trouble

Frank Farley, a professor of psychological studies at Temple University in Philadelphia, suggested several ways to cope.

Stay calm. "People who panic tend to do very dangerous things," Farley said. He also said to let media reports about the new Great Depression pass.

Do something. Translate your worries into action. Any small action that can control some of your finances will help reduce anxiety. Focus on what you can do.

Maintain a balance. If you become consumed with financial reports, you will drive yourself physically and emotionally into the ground. It is important to eat right, engage in pleasurable activities and strike a balance between attention paid to the financial crisis and attention paid to your well-being.

Last but not the least, take stock of your life. "If you get laid off or have a reduction in hours, maybe this is a time to consider, are you happy in this line of work?" Farley said.

For investors in the Chinese market, Xue Weihui, a psychologist, had another piece of advice: look at the big picture.

It is easier said than done when most people's losses have been in their retirement funds. These are long-term funds meant to weather the market. Even if you have lost a quarter or half of your retirement savings, rest assured that most of that will come back in time. The worst thing you can do is reinvest everything in your portfolio: doing so means taking big losses for uncertain future gains.

If you buy high and sell low, you are chasing losses rather than counting on market improvement.



CFP Photos

Season of red leaves

Badachu Park



Metro Line

The suburbs of Beijing are home to many scenic spots. The convenient locations draw native Beijingers year after year to check out the fall colors. Some people who live in the neighborhood climb the hills every morning for exercise.

Xiangshan Park (or Fragrant Hills Park): the most famous place to enjoy red leaves

Best visiting time:

October 25 – early November

Xiangshan Park, at the foot of Beijing's West Mountains, is 25 kilometers from the city center. It is one of the four most famous sites in China for viewing maple leaves.

The park got its name from the huge stones on the mountain that look like vats for burning incense. Another probable origin is that it was named for the fragrant apricot blossoms that have bloomed since ancient times.

The 2008 Xiangshan Red Leaves Festival started October 15, but October 25 through early November is the peak season.

"When the leaves, mainly on maple and sumac trees, turn red, the whole park is covered in warm, passionate color," a park worker said.

Tips:

Some of the best places to enjoy red maple leaves in Xiangshan Park:

Jingcui Lake: about 5 minutes, walk after entering the park from east gate.

Xiangshan Temple: located at the south foot of the mountain, bordering Shuangqing Villa.

Heshunmen: its ancient visiting road was reserved for the emperor.

Getting there: take buses 331, 360, 634, 714, 696, 698 or 318 to Xiangshan Park
Avoid weekends.
Admission: 10 yuan
Open: 6 am – 6 pm
Tel: 6259 1264

Badachu Park: viewing red leaves from a slide

Best visiting time:

October 27 – November 9

The Badachu Park is named for the eight ancient temples, nunneries and a cave on the southern slopes of the Western Hills. The park attracts crowds for its natural beauty as well as its ancient buildings.

The red leaves at Xiangshan are nationally famous. However, more and more people are finding Badachu Park an equally attractive place to visit in the season.

The most special sight in Badachu is the slide. The slide descends 1,700 meters and passes by the red leaves zone. Visitors can ride the slide and brush along the red leaves.

Park workers said 90 percent of the 100,000 trees will be at their peak colors for the next two weeks.

Tips:

Getting there: take buses 311, 347, 389, 622, 958 or 972 to the Beijing Badachu Park
Admission: 10 yuan for admission, 20 yuan for the cable car, 40 yuan for the slide; spend 55 yuan for a combination ticket including both.

Open: 5 am – 7:30 pm
Tel: 8896 4661

By Jin Zhu

As autumn draws to a close, maple trees throughout the capital's scenic spots are turning red. This year, from October through mid-November, Beijing will present a visual feast of red leaves.

Many people are attracted by the beauty of the city's red leaves. Beijingers visit scenic spots to collect red leaves every year.

Beijing Today has selected four travel routes through scenic spots known for their fall colors. This weekend is the time to get out and enjoy the season!



Beigong National Forest Park

South Line Beigong National Forest Park

Best visiting period:

October – first 10 days of November

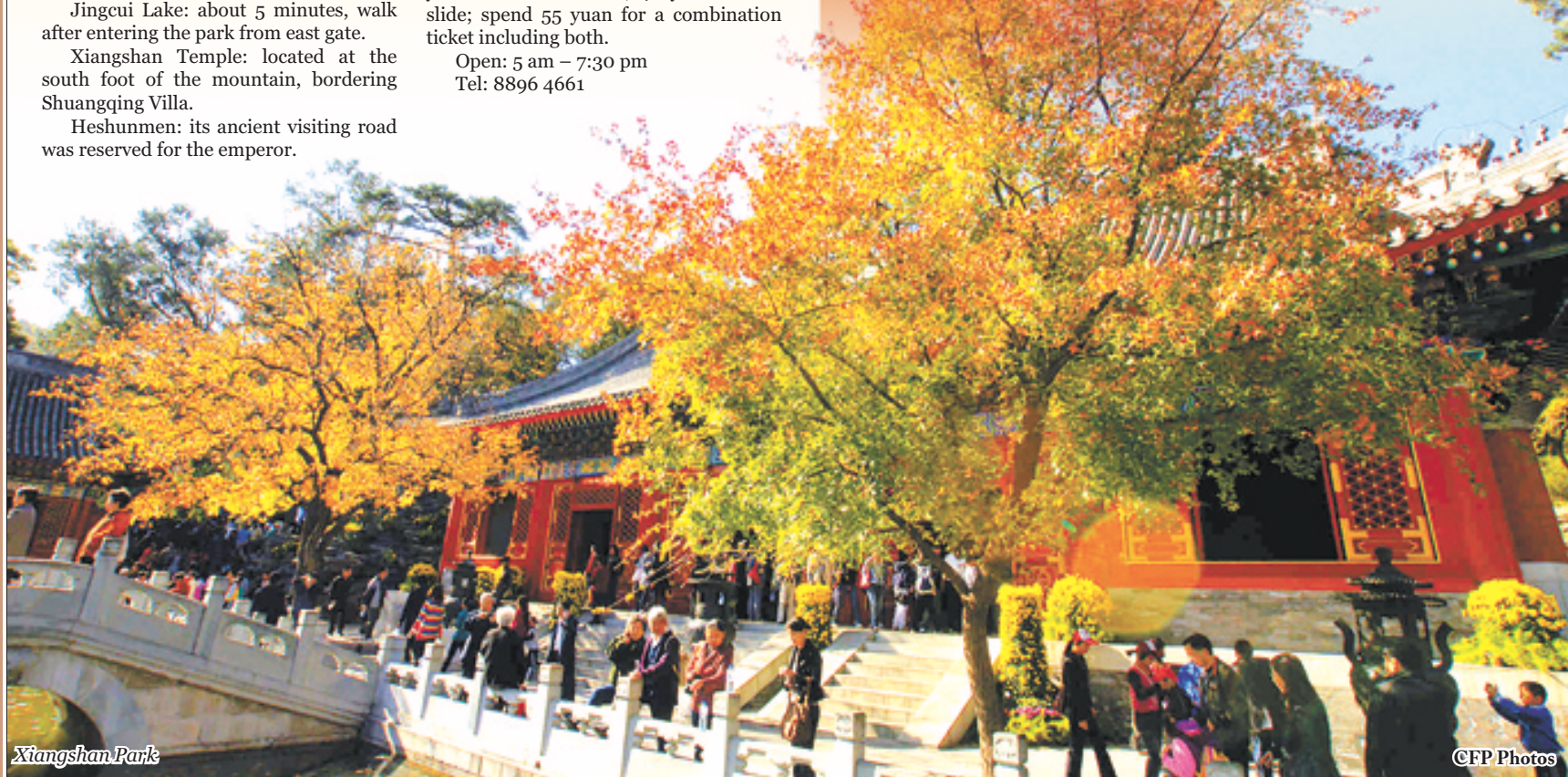
Beigong National Forest Park, located in southwest Beijing, has 120 hectares of red-leaf trees and 200 hectares of other colored leaves.

Park workers said the species of colored-leaf trees in Beigong Park are more varied than in other parts of the capital. Its trees come in all shapes and turn at various times throughout the season, so Beigong has a longer peak viewing period than other areas.

Tips:

Getting there: take bus 917 from Liuliqiao long-distance bus station to Fangshan and change to the special line to Shangfang Mountain. You could also drive the Jingshi Highway to its Liulihe Exit, following the signs along the way.

Admission: 5 yuan
Opening hour: 6:30 am – 8 pm
Tel: 8384 0830



Xiangshan Park

CFP Photos

North Line

These scenic spots, all in the north part of Beijing, feature a combination of natural beauty and ancient architecture. No matter whether it is the Great Wall or Temple, the sights are ever more grand when seen with a backdrop of red leaves.

Badaling National Forest Park: the first and most frequented place for viewing

Best visiting time:

late October – start of November

Badaling National Forest Park, beside the Badaling Great Wall, has 20,000 hectares of leafy trees. When autumn comes, with the landscape elevated from the southeast plains to the northwest mountain area, the red leaves redden from the northwest mountain down into the plain.

Since the average altitude is 750 meters, and the temperature in the mountain area is 5 degrees cooler than that in the city, red leaves turn quickly, as quickly as half a month sooner than in the city. The viewing period runs from the last 10 days of September to the beginning of November.

"This year, the peak season began in the middle of October," a park worker said, "Since the high day-night temperature difference is good for the formation of color, the period will continue through November 5."

Tips:

Nearest sights

Scenic spots, such as "Chidao" and "Chibi" are famous sites in the park at which you can see red leaves. Both are within a 20-minute walk from the gate.

Getting there: takes special bus line 919 from Deshengmen and get off Badaling National Forest Park

Bus hours: from Deshengmen to the park:
6:30am-2 pm
from the park to Deshengmen: 9:30 am-5pm
Tel: 8118 1458

North village in Miyun County: a newly discovered venue

Best visiting period:

late October – start of November

North Village, Miyun County, is a newly discovered venue to enjoy red leaves.

Unlike other leaf-viewing destinations, North Village has no famous scenic spot – only red leaves.

Local conditions cause the village to have a very short viewing window, usually from the end of October through the first 10 days in November.

"North village is a good stop for visitors who don't like climbing. You can enjoy a great view of red leaves just walking through the village," He Ping, a visitor said.

"Besides red leaves, visitors can also go fishing or stay with a rural family," he said.

Tips

Driving route: drive along Tongshun Lu, and get off at its north exit. Drive on Highway 101 to Miyun County, then continue 27 kilometers east and turn right at Taishutun. Continue 6 kilometers more to arrive at North Village.

Hongluo Temple

Best visiting period:

late October to mid November

Hongluo Temple is located at the southern foot of Hongluo Mountain in the northern Huairou District. It is a scenic area combining natural beauty with ancient architecture.

There are 40 kinds of trees covering a 300-hectare range near the temple. During late October to mid-November, several kinds leaves, including Mono Maple, Red Maple, Smoke tree and Maiden-hair trees, are in their viewing period.

Tips:

Getting there: take bus 936 from the Dongzhimen long-distance bus station

Driving route: drive on Jingmi Highway to the Huairou Exit, then go north to Hongluo Temple

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6068 1639

West Line

Miaofeng Mountain

Best visiting period:

mid October – November 7

Miaofeng Mountain, rising majestically to more than 1,300 meters, is the major peak in the northern range of the Western Hills.

Enjoying red leaves in autumn is a tradition for local citizens. By right of particular geographic condition and climate, not only red leaves but also larch trees and maiden-hair trees would bloom from mid-October every year.

Besides that, visitors could also experience fruit picking activities, such as haws and persimmons in the garden.

Tips:

Getting there: take bus 929 at Pingguoyuan railway station, or drive on Fushi Road to Mentougou central area, go to No 109 national highway to Miaofeng Mountain

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6188 2936

Redrawing the battle lines in China's war for talent

How the world financial crisis will affect employers


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 TRAINING FIRM
OF THE YEAR

By Paul Bacon

There is a rather dog-eared copy of the *South China Morning Post* drifting around my office that, because of some rather morbid fascination, none of my colleagues seem to want to throw away. It was printed two weeks ago and ran with a lead story proclaiming that US \$6 trillion (41 trillion yuan) had been wiped off the world economy by the current financial crisis. It is certainly rather shocking. So too were figures released on October 20 by the National Bureau of Statistics saying that China's annual growth has, for the first time in five years, dropped into single figures – down to 9.9 percent for the first nine months of 2008. Both of these documents show that things are changing in the Middle Kingdom!

Over the past decade, with China growing at over 10 percent each year and foreign direct investment flowing in at greater rates, we began to see an increasingly intense war for talent developing. As companies grew, they needed more talented people to fuel that growth. Experienced, proven and well-qualified performers therefore became increasingly valuable commodities. To get their hands on these commodities, most companies stuck to one core approach – to throw money at the problem.

I could illustrate this by hurling lots of frightening statistics, such as that 13 percent of companies experienced more than 20 percent turnover in 2008 according to the *China Youth Daily*; or that 32 percent of organizations told Hudson Associates, a consulting and training firm, they planned to increase salaries by over 20 percent to attract new talent. However, I would like

to offer a slightly more personal example.

While training at a major pharmaceutical company in Tianjin, I met Daniel, a man who defined the term "war for talent". Daniel and I graduated in the same year, 2002. But in the six years since, while I worked for two companies, Daniel got through six! He painted a sadly predictable picture. After graduating, he spent two very successful years at his first company. That success quickly attracted attention and he was head-hunted. Six months later, the process was repeated. Then, one year later, it happened again – and again. Daniel simply shrugged and said, "There was always someone offering more. What could I do?"

With growth now beginning to slow, we will see far fewer Daniels. The war for talent is beginning to change – the battle lines need to be redrawn. Organizations that, just a few months ago, were scrapping for every morsel of talent to fuel their expansion now find themselves staring uneasily at their balance sheet. Consequently, they will be far less keen to splash the cash on lavish recruitment programs. Such a reaction is only natural. However, the challenge for managers – particularly in human resources – is to ensure they do not create a false economy.

The problem organizations will face is that the need for talented people will not diminish. In fact, with companies facing harsh times, having the best possible people to steer them through becomes even more essential. The challenge now becomes recruiting and retaining these people without breaking the bank: quite a literal term for many companies. Keep a lookout for my next article when I will discuss the ways in which companies can do this.



Paul Bacon is a corporate trainer and network HR editor based in Beijing.

Dining

Innovative modern Chinese cuisine

Diners will enjoy more than just good food; My Humble House is a leading restaurant in the development of innovative modern Chinese cuisine. Its dishes feature a mix of international ingredients prepared using Chinese cooking methods.

The restaurant has also engaged "Moon Mood," a four-member modern Chinese folk ensemble to provide diners an added treat.

When: before December 31, daily except Monday and Sunday 8:15-11 pm

Tel: 6530 7770

Sunday brunch

Cafe 99 offers Sunday buffet brunch with a wide selection of delicacies including caviar, pan-fried goose liver, salmon tartar and fresh scallops, as well as bouillabaisse, a Mediterranean soup that will delight seafood lovers.

The buffet at 365 yuan includes champagne, wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea. At 260 yuan, it includes soft drinks, coffee and tea. Kids eat for 108 yuan. All prices are subject to a 15 percent surcharge.

Where: Cafe 99, The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 11:30 am – 3 pm

Tel: 8522 1789



Hot chocolate

Lobby Lounge at Shangri-La Hotel Beijing will present a selection of four hot chocolates to fulfill visitors' deepest chocolate cravings.

Choose from Orange Hot Mocha with its delightful tang of citrus, French Hot Chocolate with enticing hints of rich cinnamon, Mexican Hot Chocolate – the perfect late night indulgence with a touch of chili – or the classic Simply Hot Chocolate, hailed as the ultimate bittersweet temptation. Each cup costs 57.50 yuan.

Where: Lobby Lounge, Shangri-La Hotel Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: November 1 – December 31

Tel: 8882 6723

Hotel

Three-day culinary event

The Westin Beijing Financial Street will present its inaugural Hats Off, a three-day culinary event where 10 award-winning chefs will exhibit their skills.

On the evening of November 13 and 14, the chefs will be divided into two teams to present different set menus at the Jewel and Prego restaurant. November 15 will be the finale at the hotel's Treasury Ballroom: the culinary superstars will prepare a 10-course meal in front of guests.

Where: The Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9b Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 13-15

Tel: 6629 7810

Food and wine

The Hilton Beijing's Food & Wine experience is back for the eleventh year, bigger and better than ever, with a plethora of gastronomic events and entertainment.

On November 29, hundreds of the world's most acclaimed food and wine companies will descend on Hilton Beijing. Over 500 different wines will be on hand for sampling, with helpful

tips provided by the hotel's notable new sommelier, Julia Zhu.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dong Sanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 8 pm (to the trade); 5-8 pm (to the public)

Cost: 230 yuan, including buffet

Tel: 5865 5240

Hotel package

Come and enjoy Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun's opening package. Its superior rooms go for 888 yuan a night and its deluxe rooms for 988 yuan per night, subject to a 15 percent surcharge. The package includes one daily buffet breakfast, complimentary access to its health club and swimming pool, late check out until 3 pm, (subject to room availability), and complimentary enrollment to its Priority Club.

Aside from its outstanding shopping location, the hotel offers stylish guest rooms, professional services and extensive meeting and banquet facilities.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

When: before November 30

Tel: 5993 8888

Aviation



SriLankan Airlines launches SMS Alerts to enhance customer convenience

SriLankan Airlines has launched an SMS Alert facility to keep passengers informed of flight updates.

The airline is inviting passengers to provide their mobile phone numbers when they book

their tickets. Passengers who book through travel agents should make sure their mobile numbers are passed on to SriLankan when they make their booking. Passengers whose mobile phones are on roaming will still receive flight updates.

(By Sun Feng)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaoqing@ynet.com

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Please, no more 'nitpickers'



CFP Photo

By Jin Zhu

Everyone comes across different kinds of people while going about the business of daily life. Some people leave a deep impression because of their kindness, while some leave you with a memory that still gives you nightmares.

Four months ago, I got my first job as a writer for a marketing firm. My first task was to conduct an interview with a female television producer about how their company was run and made money. I was anxious about the meeting and could not sleep the night before.

The next day, I arrived at the appointed place early. The producer, dressed fashionably, arrived promptly. My conversation with her revealed she had good business sense. I was glad she answered my many questions.

It was almost lunchtime when the interview ended, so to express my

appreciation for her help, I invited her to lunch. As soon as we arrived at the restaurant, she asked for a cup of cafe latte. She took a sip of the coffee, winced and called the waitress over. "Do you know what a cafe latte is?" she said. "I'm sure this cup doesn't contain enough pure milk." The waitress immediately replaced her coffee. I was surprised, and embarrassed, when she again said loudly: "This restaurant doesn't serve real cafe latte."

Little did I know she was only getting warmed up. During the meal, she complained about every dish. The shrimp were not fresh; the vegetables were too salty; even the cakes she chose were too tough. Her words drove me crazy and made me lose my appetite.

A few days later, I saw her again at a party hosted by a big media research company. "I hate this orange juice. It's not fresh," she yelled at a waiter. "I

don't understand how you can call this fresh fruit juice." People turned to stare at her.

"I know her," I told my friend Joshua who had just arrived from the US. "She has a sharp tongue and likes to pick up bones from eggs," I said.

"What do you mean by picking up bones from eggs?" My words seemed to have confused him.

"I mean, she loves to find fault with every small thing. It seems nothing ever satisfies her," I said.

"I get it. What you mean is that she's a 'nitpicker.' That's the word we use in English to describe this kind of person," Joshua said. "Maybe someone will one day point out to her what a pain she is and make her wake up to her faults," he said.

Maybe Joshua's words will come true, who knows. As for me, I just hope I do not meet any more "nitpickers."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Peony was Emiwada first time designing ballet costumes

The problem with this sentence is its word order. The writer is wrong in using "first time" as the adverbial of time. Actually, it is the first effort rather than the first time. The correct way to say it is: Peony was Emiwada's first effort in designing ballet costumes. Similarly, you can say it is the first effort of its kind in the ballet costume designing community, or, It is the first effort ever undertaken in designing ballet costumes.

2. Raised in Washington DC, Handel Lee's life resembled these elite American-born Chinese.

Please be careful that you do not write dangling sentences. The doer of the main clause must be in conformity with the virtual subject of the adverbial gerund clause or the clause begun with a past participle. With this sentence, you may say: Handel Lee, raised in Washington DC, resembled most of the American-born Chinese in life experience. In this case, the clause of "raised in Washington DC" is an attributive one. If we say: Raised in Washington DC, Handel Lee resembled most of the American-born Chinese in life experience, the clause is an adverbial of cause.

Native Speaker: Penny Turner

1. Peony was Emiwada first time designing ballet costumes

1. Without any context, the sentence sounds horribly wrong. But upon learning that Peony is actually Peony Pavilion, the title of a ballet adapted from a Chinese drama, and that Emi Wada is a renowned Japanese costume designer, it does not take much to fix this sentence. You can say: Peony was Emi Wada's first time designing ballet costumes or first time at designing ballet costumes. If you are writing only one sentence about this topic, and the reader has not been given any background, it is better to say: The ballet Peony Pavilion was Japanese costume designer Emi Wada's first time designing ballet costumes. True, it is quite long, but at least you are not leaving your readers guessing.

2. Raised in Washington DC, Handel Lee's life resembled these elite American-born Chinese.

At first reading, the sentence does appear like it had been abruptly cut or left dangling, but it can be easily fixed once you try to understand what the writer wants to say. The thought behind the sentence is that, Because Handel Lee was raised in Washington DC, her life resembles the life of elite American-born Chinese. Using the original sentence structure, you can say: Raised in Washington DC, Handel Lee's life resembles those of the elite American-born Chinese. We use the present tense for "resemble" in the sentence because we take it that the fact still exists, that Handel Lee's life still resembles those of the elite American-born Chinese.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Wash after relief

by Tiffany Tan

The writer was obviously going for a direct translation of the Chinese text and meant to say, "Please flush the toilet after relieving yourself." The sign, however, sounds like a dictionary talking, with the translation a result of having chopped up the sentence into its major Chinese com-

ponents. The main idea is in the statement, and with the context pretty clear, so readers should understand what they are being asked to do.

The words "relieving yourself" may hurt the sensibilities of some people, however, since it conjures up images of all manners of toilet activities. The Chi-

便后请冲洗
Wash after relief

nese character "bian" does that, but such is how Chinese toilet signs are always written. As far as English toilet signs go, the standard has been to say: "Please flush the toilet after use." Direct and to the point without going into too many exciting details. It is entirely your business what use you may have had of it.

Movie of the week

The movie is based on a book from the hugely popular series American Girl. The series mixes historical fact with fiction, with each book telling the story of how a young American girl makes her dreams come true despite the challenges of her time.

Kit Kittredge's story takes place during the Great Depression, the worst and longest economic collapse in the history of the modern industrial world, lasting from the end of 1929 until the early 1940s. Viewers will learn through the film what life was like for a girl growing up during such a difficult period.

Synopsis

Ten-year-old Kit has a passion for writing and aspires to be a reporter. She cannot resist bringing home

strays, whether an abandoned basset hound or Will and Countee, a pair of young hobos willing to trade work for meals. She moves to a boarding house after her father loses his job. When a crime spree sweeps Cincinnati, Ohio, all signs point to the local "hobo jungle" where Will and Countee live with a group of their impoverished friends. When Kit's mother and their boarders become the latest victims in a string of robberies and Will is accused of the crimes, Kit's loyalties are tested. Determined to recover the stolen money and believing Will is innocent, Kit, with the help of her friends, tracks down the real culprits and unmask the plot.



KIT KITTREDGE

An American Girl (2008)

Scene 1

(In class, the teacher asks whether one of the students, Frances Stone, is absent. She is one of Kit's classmates whose family has gone bankrupt.)

Teacher (T): Does, uh ... Does anyone know where Frances Stone is?

Classmates: She's away.

Kit (K): Staying with family.

Roger (R): Yeah, in a hobo jungle⁽¹⁾ somewhere.

Ruthie: Stop it, Roger.

R: Frances Stone is a good-for-nothing⁽²⁾, deadbeat⁽³⁾ egg seller, and everyone knows it. She wore dresses made of feed sacks.

T: Roger, Ruthie, not another word⁽⁴⁾. Well, this seems like an opportunity time to let you know that as a final class assignment before summer vacation, we're going to help out at a soup kitchen⁽⁵⁾ where they provide food for the poor and needy.

R: My dad says that people who eat at soup kitchens are hobos who feed off the government. That's why we're in a Depression.

T: I understand, Roger. Therefore, anyone who doesn't wish to help out can write a 1,500-word essay on the history of volunteerism.

Scene 2

(In the office of the Cincinnati Register, Kit asks Gibson, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper to publish her articles.)

Gibson (G): Who is it?

K: Margaret Mildred Kittredge.

G: What do you want?

K: To be in print.

G: Well, how do I say this nicely?⁽⁶⁾

K: But you haven't even read it!

Intern: She's sorry, Mr Gibson. Come on, Kit.

K: Yeah, that's right, I am sorry. I'm sorry you can't recognize a good story when it's standing right outside your door.

G: What did you say?

K: Portrait of a boarding house, sir. It's fresh. It's new. It's real. What you're holding in your hand, sir, is the story you've been looking for. And you can throw me out if you want, but I suggest that you read it first. "A Kid's-Eye View of the Depression in Cincinnati," by Kit Kittredge, age 10.

G: You wrote this?

K: Yes.

G: It's not bad.

K: Are you going to print it, Mr Gibson?

G: I'm sorry, kid. "Not bad" is good, but it's not good enough. Keep it up⁽⁷⁾, kid. We pay a penny a word for freelance.

Scene 3

(Kit is asking questions about Will's life because she wants to write a real life story about people like him.)

K: So, what's it like riding the rails, Will?

Will (W): Trains whistle, engines smoke up, and you run and you jump. And you let it take you to a whole new life. Makes a man feel free, right, Countee?

Countee (C): That's right.

K: So where's home, Will?

W: Uh, Texas. We had a farm. Crops failed two years in a row⁽⁸⁾. Daddy fought to keep it, but when he couldn't, they headed out west with Belle and Evelyn and my younger sisters. They wanted me to go too, but I figured it was time for me to strike out on my own⁽⁹⁾ ... So I rode the rails, uh, made a few friends and worked when I could. That's when I met Countee and his father in Oklahoma about 14 months ago. Kind of stuck together⁽¹⁰⁾ after that. Called ourselves ...

C: "The Three Musketeers"⁽¹¹⁾. Ha, ha.

Scene 4

(When Kit happens to find out that the jewelry was stolen by Frederick not Will, she analyzes how Frederick and Mr Berk plotted the crime together.)

K: The sheriff said it was an inside job⁽¹²⁾. Mr Berk knew where Mother kept the jewels and money.

Suthie (Su): But how did Mr Berk get the brooch out of the lockbox and into Will's tent?

K: What if he never put the brooch in the box?

Stirling (St): That's it, a sleight of hand. Remember when Mr Berk put his watch in the jewelry bag? He must have taken the brooch out, put it in his pocket and given it to Frederick.

Su: He must have stolen Will's boots.

K: Right. And that means that Frederick must have gone to Will's camp dressed as a hobo and hid the boots and jewelry in Will's tent.

St: All Mr Berk needed to do was to make the sheriff suspect Will.

K: The limp. Will said someone kicked him in the knee.

Vocabulary

1. Hobo jungle: The dwelling place of people who wander from place to place without a permanent home or a means of livelihood.

2. Good-for-nothing: An idle, useless person

3. Deadbeat: Someone who fails to meet a financial obligation

4. Not another word: Stop talking.

5. Soup kitchen: A place where food is dispensed to the needy

6. How do I say this nicely: What if I say no?

7. Keep up: Maintain a required pace or level. In this context, it means to continue writing.

8. In a row: Continuously

9. Strike out on one's own: Begin a new and independent life.

10. Stuck together: To be loyal to one another, especially in times of trouble

11. Musketeer: A member of the French royal household bodyguard in the 17th and 18th centuries

12. Inside job: A crime committed against an organization or property by an affiliated person

(By Venus Lee)

